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Page 5

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 1996  
win. Jennie Cox and Kevin Eason on a chapter of accidents

Unfortunately, it was  
NOTHING FANCY

THIS SIDE FOR THE BIGGEST EDITION OF THE TIMES IN OUR HISTORY

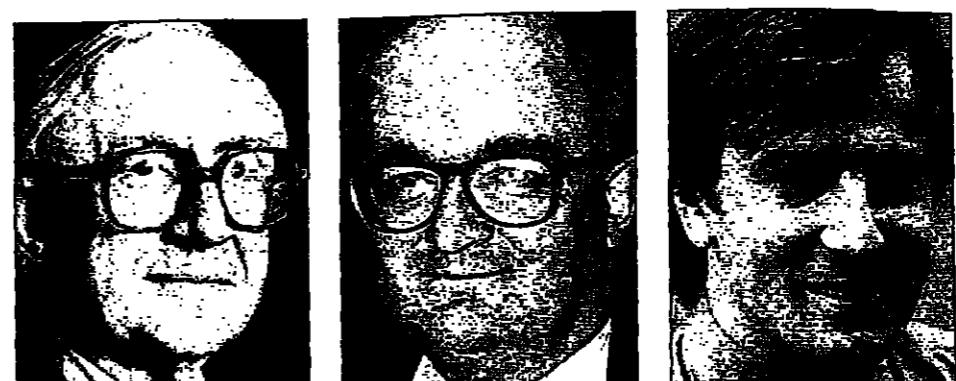
# Day-by-day, the paper that



## Sport - the top coverage from the top team

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ADRIAN SHERATT

## BRIEFS IN BRIEF

**£8m heroin found on fans' bus**

Heroin worth £8 million has been found in a coach that took Polish football supporters to Wembley for the international match against England on Wednesday.

The discovery was made when Customs officers searched the vehicle as it arrived at Dover for the return journey. It is believed that the 100 kilograms of heroin were brought over in the hope of finding a buyer. The 12 fans on board, including the driver of the coach, which left Cracow on Tuesday, were arrested.

## Labour MP dies

Terry Patchett, the Labour MP for Barnsley East, has died after a long battle with cancer. He was 56. Labour is likely to hold an early by-election and will almost certainly retain the seat. Mr Patchett's majority was 24,777.

## Anti-drugs drive

An Irish government task-force set up after the investigative journalist Veronica Guerin was murdered is to spend £14 million to combat heroin addiction in Dublin and Cork. Police believe her murder was ordered by a drug baron.

## Needle in pork

Pamela Yeomans, of Pye Bridge, Derbyshire, found a 3in hypodermic needle in a joint of pork she and her children were about to eat. Local health officials who are examining the meat believe it could have been a vet's needle.

## Director crushed

A company director has been killed by a heavy iron mould that fell on him from a lifting machine at his factory.

Francis Bacon's *Seated Figure (Red Cardinal)*, which dates from 1960, is one of 20 images from Bacon's *Papal* series. Most are in museums. After being exhibited in 1961, it was purchased by an American collector and on his death was sold in the 1970s to an anonymous European.

The painting's whereabouts remained unknown until its appearance at Christie's. The image was inspired by Velázquez's *Portrait of Pope Innocent X* in Rome. Bacon contorted the image into a threatening, disfigured character that reflected the pain and bleakness of human existence. Brett Gorvy, director of contemporary art at Christie's, said: "The pope's face is acid-burned and has the texture of rotting flesh. Frustration, impotence and agony are all registered."

The picture will be shown in Antwerp, Zurich, Paris and New York before being auctioned in London on December 4.

Bacon's meaning, page 18

## Kerrs divorce

The actress Patsy Kensit and her rock star husband Jim Kerr were granted a quickie divorce in the High Court.

Kerr, 36, will pay 28-year-old Kensit £2,500 a month for care of their son James and £350 a week for a nanny.

## Passing comment

In a new national campaign for cleaner public lavatories, establishments such as pubs and restaurants will display stickers inviting customers to phone a freephone number and comment on the state of the lavatories.

## Medical curios

The world's largest collection of gallstones is being put on display at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital as part of an exhibition of old medical specimens and equipment.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

The strange  
death of Tory  
England



It is essentially Tory ideas — from the primacy of the market in economics, to the need to reassess traditional values in education and law and order — that now dominate the political agenda. So how can it be that it is the Tories, rather than their opponents, who are facing political annihilation...?

Robert Harris (pictured), *News Review*, *The Sunday Times tomorrow*

# Abortion 'increases chances of breast cancer by a third'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN who have an abortion increase by a third their risk of developing breast cancer, researchers reported yesterday.

The finding suggests that thousands of cases of breast cancer each year can be attributed to the effects of abortion.

*The number will rise sharply*

into the next century as the first group of women who had

aborted after they were

legalised in the 1970s age

and the risk of cancer rises.

Scientists at the City University, New York, who analysed results from 23 studies of breast cancer said the link with abortion had been noted since the 1950s but had been played down. They cite recent reviews of breast cancer which have appeared in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and *The Lancet* but which have failed to mention abortion among risk factors.

The American researchers led by Joel Brind, Professor of Endocrinology, say abortion

accounts for 5,000 cases of breast cancer in the US each year, which will rise to 25,000 by the middle of the next century. Abortion is the commonest non-emergency operation performed in America with 800,000 first-time cases a year.

British experts have treated the findings with caution. Ann Furedi, director of the Birth Control Trust, denied that the risks had been played down and that they had to be seen in the context of other known risks for breast cancer. "If you wait until 35 for a first pregnancy it doubles your risk of breast cancer, and if you bottle feed instead of breast feed your baby the risk is increased by a fifth," she said.

The American authors say that the introduction of legalised abortion may be one factor behind the rising incidence of breast cancer in the past 25 years. The increased risk, they say, is seen in studies from around the

world, in populations with the widest differences in ethnic, diet, socio-economic and life-style factors.

Professor Brind, who has studied the link between sex hormones and disease for 25 years, said women who had a miscarriage did not suffer the same risk because it did not result in high levels of oestrogen. "Excess exposure to oestrogen is involved in most known breast cancer risk factors, but in most pregnancies that end in miscarriage, oestrogen levels never get off the ground, so breast cancer risk is not increased," he said.

The authors say that abortion is often presented as a much safer procedure than live birth, which has a death rate 12 times higher. However, given the high incidence of breast cancer, which affects one woman in twelve in America and one in eight in the UK, any increase in breast cancer risk would make abortion far more risky than live birth.



Bacon's *Seated Figure (Red Cardinal)*: "frustration, impotence and agony"



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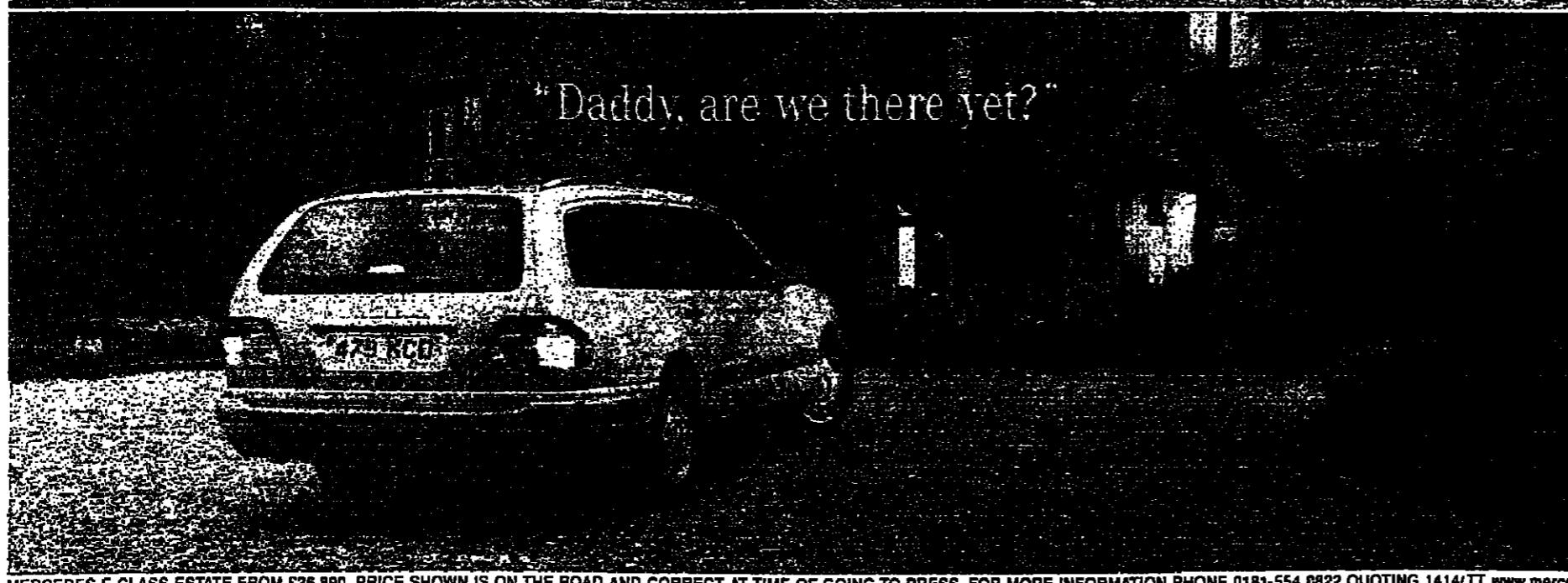
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# Poverty study gives Prue Leith a taste of reality

By DOMINIC KENNEDY  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PRUE LEITH, the millionaire caterer, has become a champion of the dispossessed after visiting council estates to talk to the poor about their lives.

The former Business Woman of the Year lost her faith in "trickle-down" economics while touring Tesco with a single mother who has to raise a five-year-old son on £80 a week. Ms Leith, undertaking the task as a member of the Channel 4 Poverty Commission, was shattered as she watched Annie Oliver reject a £68p carton of fruit juice because it was too expensive.

The Cordon Bleu cook, who once sat on the board of Safeway and is vice-chairwoman of Women in Finance and Banking, was unaware of the price of a pint of milk, according to the makers of *The Great, the Good and the Dispossessed*, to be shown on Channel 4 tonight.

"She was amazed at the way people calculate everything to the last penny. When she goes shopping she throws things in," said Miss Oliver, 27, who lives with her son Alex in a council maisonette in Bristol.

"She had some odd ideas. She said it was very sad that the homeless people used the local park as a toilet and wondered whether we should build them toilets. I said no, we should build them homes."

Ms Leith, 56, has a £1 million farm in the Cotswolds, and a £250,000 flat in west London. As a member of the Channel 4 commission, which spent four months investigating the problems of the poor, she now advocates higher taxes for the rich, a massive programme of public works to solve unemployment, and the

• I didn't realise the money doesn't get to the poorest,



Prue Leith, who found middle-class ideas didn't work

building of more council houses.

She said: "I've always had this very straight economic-capitalist if you like — argument that what we need is a vibrant, healthy economy and money will flow right through the system and make poor people richer. What I didn't realise was how the money doesn't get to the very poorest,

even if the average wage goes up."

At the supermarket, she learnt the "survival strategies" of the poor. "I kept saying things to her [Miss Oliver] as a middle-class woman, very bossy, going round the supermarket thinking I knew everything."

She told Miss Oliver to buy a bumper pack of apples

instead of one per day, but the mother explained that her son would eat too many and they would be left with no apples and no money. Ms Leith chided Miss Oliver for buying Jaffa cakes, which are full of sugar and fat, and suggested raw carrots would be healthier. Miss Oliver explained that she wanted her son to have something sweet to finish every meal and the cakes would last a week.

Ms Leith has lost patience with those who argue that because people on council estates have modern conveniences, satellite dishes and designer sports shoes, nobody in Britain is poor. "Only the rich can afford to go without microwave ovens," she says. "They are the cheapest way to heat a potato. The cheapest way to keep the children quiet is to put them in front of the television."

"It is very easy for middle-class people like me to say to my children, 'Tough, you have to have Marks & Spencer trainers'. When children have so little this sort of label badge, whether it is Reebok or whatever, assumes much more importance to them."

The Channel 4 commissioners say that people are poor if they are "isolated from engaging in the normal activities of society". They decided that the European definition of poverty — anyone living below half average wages — was too narrow, although that already classifies 14 million Britons as poor.

Ms Leith said the salaries of "fat cat" directors, who can earn 300 times as much as their lowest workers, were obscene. In her own catering business, which she has sold, the managing director was paid only three times as much as the kitchen porter.

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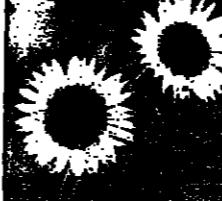
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## Panel urges salary limit on 'fat cats'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A MAXIMUM wage should be imposed on "fat cat" company executives to close the growing gap between rich and poor, according to the Channel 4 Poverty Commission, which was created to try to solve the problem of the poor in Britain.

The commission members are calling on captains of industry to set a ceiling on their salaries of 25 times that of their worst-paid workers. In a firm that pays a cleaner £3 an hour, the maximum boardroom salary would be about £140,000 a year. Many leading directors now get close to £700,000.

The idea of capping top salaries has been successfully pioneered by the John Lewis Partnership. The commissioners — the chairman Professor Peter Townsend, a social policy expert, Prue Leith, Sir Stephen Tumlin, the former Chief Inspector of



Miss Oliver and Ms Leith shopped together at Tesco

Protected status is claimed by crofters

By A STAFF REPORTER

SCOTTISH crofters are appealing to the Government for official recognition as indigenous people in a bid to protect their way of life. They say that under United Nations rules their case is similar to that of Indian tribes and the Maoris.

Fraser MacLeod, director of the Scottish Crofters' Union, said recognition was vital to the development of the Highlands and would prevent problems that crofting communities suffered under absentee landlords.

He added: "We have had several experts looking at this proposal and they agree that under the UN international treaties and legislation we could be recognised as indigenous people. This would give us greater control over our future and safeguard the crofting way of life and the Gaelic language."

The crofters plan to attend the annual UN conference on indigenous people in Geneva next July to put forward their case. Mr MacLeod said that official recognition would also allow crofters the right to self-government at local level and give them rights over land and resources.

"We have unique legislation in crofting and we now want the Government to enter the debate as to how this can be developed to the benefit of everyone in the Highlands."

He claimed that recognition would help in cases such as the campaign by residents of Eigg in the Inner Hebrides to buy the island and avert problems with an absentee landlord.

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# Support grows for radio attack on gay church service

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

**SUPPORT** for the clergyman's wife who used the *Church of England's Thought for the Day* to attack the Church of England's stance on homosexuality was growing yesterday on both the traditionalist and evangelical wings of the Church.

Mrs Atkins is one of several new contributors to the religious slot in the *Today* programme after seven middle-aged male clergy were "rested". One of these, the Ven George Austin, Archdeacon of York, said he had been unpressed by the piece.

Yesterday Mrs Atkins returned to the programme to defend her broadcast. "I am not anti-gay — I've got close friends who are gay," she said. "But the Church must have the courage to say what it believes, however unpopular or politically incorrect."

The Right Rev Edwin Barnes, the Bishop of Richborough and one of the "flying bishops" ministering to traditionalists who oppose women priests, said: "I was pleased to

hear her piece. It seemed to me to redress the balance. There are many people who are heartily sick of what they see as a terrible drift in the Church of England. I think Mrs Atkins will get a lot of support."

The November service at the cathedral has aroused criticism from evangelicals who are urging parishes in the diocese to withhold financial contributions in protest.

But the Rev Richard Kirker, secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, told Mrs Atkins on *Today* that she had made "many inaccuracies and slurs". He invited her to join him at the service to "give thanks for our sexual orientation to God".

The BBC said the broadcast had prompted a "considerable number of complaints" but could not give a figure.

Mrs Atkins, whose husband Shaun is priest-in-charge of St Dionis at Parsons' Green, southwest London, had attacked bishops for supporting a celebration in Southwark Cathedral, southeast London, to mark 20 years of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement. She criticised the Church for "failing to sound the trumpet" for biblical morality.

The broadcast prompted an unprecedented complaint



Anne Atkins with her husband Shaun: "The Church must have courage"

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At Your Service,  
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# Gossip can pass on inner truths

Richard Harries

**M**ost human beings enjoy gossip. And afterwards most of them feel slightly guilty about it. "I love gossip," Malcolm Muggeridge wrote. "I confess I am far more interested in who sleeps with whom than in who voted for whom." W.H. Auden defended gossip on the BBC in 1937. He challenged his listeners: "Who would rather learn the facts of Augustus' imperial policy than discover he had spots on his stomach? No one."

Yet gossip has a bad name and most of us feel uneasy about it. This is partly because a great deal of gossip is malicious. It is designed to do down the other person in some way. It is also due to the fact that gossip spreads. The result is a contagion, a distorted, damaging picture of someone going the rounds. So what can be said in defence of gossip? First, in gossip people are usually real. They are saying what they really feel and think. In gossip, what we are really interested in comes out, revealing something perhaps about other people and certainly about ourselves. Then gossip presumes a certain intimacy. It depends upon a sense of private sharing. Auden wanted to go beyond this. He argued that "all art is based on gossip" and that "gossip is the art form of the man and woman in the street". Muggeridge said that because gossip is about "the absurdities and frailties, the gargoyle side of life", it helped to mock our trivial lives, "which is half way to seeking the divine".

Those are grandiose ambitions. I will content myself by claiming only reality and intimacy. But there is still gossip and gossip. D.H. Lawrence in *Lady Chatterley's Lover* made the distinction:

*Connie was fascinated, listening to her. But afterwards always a little ashamed. She ought not to listen to this queer rabid curiosity. After all, one may hear the most private affairs of other people, but only in a spirit of respect for the struggling, battered thing which any human soul is, and in a spirit of fine, discriminative sympathy.*

As so often, Lawrence gets it right. "A spirit of respect for the struggling, battered thing which any human soul is." There is speculation and gossip at the moment about the Pope's health. Some of this is genuine concern; but some is looking beyond his death to who might succeed him. This highlights the remarkable origin of the word gossip. It comes from the middle English combination of God and sib (hence sibling). It denotes

the spiritual affinity of the baptised and their sponsors. The only gossip that is worth hearing is that which is rooted in this spiritual affinity, whether with the Pope or someone's lover.

A few years ago the phrase "gossiping the Gospel" was doing the rounds.

This means talking about

prayer or the love of God in a way that is as natural and easy as chatting to a good friend. It poses an interesting question. Are we as real, in talking about God, as we are in discussing the foibles and frailties of our friends? It is difficult to talk about the things of God without adopting a pious tone. When we can, it is a sign that our beliefs are truly part of us.

□ The Right Rev Richard Harries is the Bishop of Oxford.

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# We agree with the Harriet Harman on the right.

New Labour can't have it both ways. Freedom of choice can't be right for Harriet Harman's child and wrong for everyone else's.

We applaud Ms. Harman because, like every other right-thinking parent, she has chosen to put the education of her child before political dogma.

This has proved to be a very courageous thing to do given the strength of opinion in her Party against parents who send their children to schools of their choice – whether they happen to be state or independent.

At New Labour's recent conference Tony Blair said he wants every child to be educated at a State School.

There's nothing independent schools would like more than to keep politics out of education.

Unfortunately some politicians just won't leave us alone. So independent Schools have no alternative but to speak out, using hard-earned money raised by parents.

First, Labour said they were going to abolish independent schools altogether.

But then they discovered that their supporters didn't actually want independent schools abolished.

So instead of a head-on confrontation, they switched to a new plan. Undermine the schools instead.

New Labour's current policy threatens the Charitable Status

of independent schools. The result? To force up school fees so fewer parents could afford them. This, of course, would make independent schools more exclusive – and New Labour would criticise that.

Both the Liberal Democrats and New Labour have pledged to abolish The Assisted Places Scheme.

The Scheme was set up to achieve precisely what New Labour and the Liberal Democrats say they want – greater integration of independent schools.

The Assisted Places Scheme will enable almost 40,000 children from low income families to attend about 450 independent schools in 1996/7. More than 40% of places are FREE. Children as young as five years old can benefit.

APS pupils at independent schools achieve 1-3 grades higher at 'A' Level than pupils of similar ability at other schools. (Source: Research Study, London School of Economics, published July 1996.)

Last Summer over 94% of APS pupils achieved GCSE grades A-C. And 94% achieved 'A' Level Grades A-E. 51% of APS A-level entrants got A or B Grades.

Successive MORI polls show that most parents would send their children to independent schools if they could.

And, by the way, over 50% of parents who have chosen to send their children to independent schools were not educated at independent schools themselves.

#### We are not asking you to change your vote.

We're asking you to help us make New Labour and the Lib Dems reconsider their policies on independent schools.

Please write to us – a very short letter will be fine – saying you want your MP or candidate to think again about the points below. We will note and pass on your views.

1. Education has been established in law as a 'Charitable Purpose' since at least 1601. Don't let New Labour abolish Charitable Status for independent schools.

2. The Assisted Places Scheme opens the chance of independent education to far more parents. Don't let New Labour or the Lib Dems take this away.

3. Both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights enshrine the right of every parent to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children. Don't let New Labour or the Lib Dems threaten this basic freedom.

Would you like your child or grandchild to have the chance of an Assisted Place at an independent school?

For free advice telephone 0171-630 8793/4 or write to Parental Choice Matters, Friends of Independent Schools, 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AG. And ask for our fact pack on the political threats to parental choice.

## Parental Choice Matters

Major tells Blair that his troops will fight heart and soul to secure a fifth Tory victory

## 'Sorry Tony, the Prime Minister's job is taken'

*This is an edited extract from John Major's speech to the Tory party conference yesterday.*

WE'VE had a good week. It's been the week the Tory family came together — to renew the family contract with the British nation.

The well-being of our country is more important than any political party. And the well-being of the Conservative Party is more important than any member of it. So the lesson is clear. Everyone in the party should work — and if I know them, will work — heart and soul, irrespective of personal interests, to secure the re-election of a Conservative government.

ENTERPRISE: When I became Prime Minister, I set out to make Britain a low-inflation economy. I knew what a fight it would be. But we went for it. We took the flak. No weakening. Heads down. We did what we always do when we're challenged: we came out fighting. And, as a result, we've had the longest run of low inflation this

not a socialist anymore. Now, can I be Prime Minister, please?"

Sorry, Tony. Job's taken. And, anyway, it's too big a task for your first real job.

BELIEFS: I came into politics to open doors, not shut them. They were opened for me. I was born in the war. My father was 66. My mother ... was surprised.

We were like millions of others. Not well off, but comfortable, until financially the roof fell in. Nothing special about that. But for us, it changed our life. My mother coped — as women do. I left school at 16, because an extra £5 a week mattered. I learnt something from that experience. In the game of life, we Tories should even up the rules. Give people opportunity and choice, to open up an avenue of hope in their lives. And by "people" I don't mean "some people". I mean everyone. Opportunity for all. It's in the bloodstream of our party.

EDUCATION: There are millions of children in our country. Every one is original: different skills, different talents, different needs. So our task is to provide a rich choice of schools and colleges, giving the best to every child and demanding the best of every child. We're improving that choice every year. And we intend to widen it further. So, I make this promise: if parents want more grant-maintained schools, they shall have them. More specialist schools — we'll provide them. More selection — they'll have it. Why should government say "no" if parents think it's right for their children?

And if parents want grammar schools in every town — so do I. We shall have them. We grammar school boys — and girls — believe in choice for parents. That means parents shouldn't face a choice between one bad school and another. What kind of choice is that? It's the kind of choice you get in Islington — unless you move out of the borough. We're going to change that. That's why this autumn we'll turn today's promises into tomorrow's reality with a flagship Education Bill.

will announce their conclusions by Christmas, and I intend that the scheme will be running in schools in the coming academic year. Colin scored nearly 8,000 runs for England. Now he's going to inspire nearly 8 million boys and girls who might want to play, compete and represent their country. I want them to enjoy sport. And they'll enjoy it more if they play to win. Take it from me — winning is fun.

THE FAMILY: More than ever before, we've given families more independence and more freedom to



John Major embracing the singer Patti Boulaye during a conference walkabout with his wife Norma after his speech yesterday

choose. As a result, millions have become owners of homes, savings, shares and pensions. But not enough yet. In our next 5 years, we will seek new opportunities: helping more people save and build security for retirement; helping people who need care keep more of those savings. We're aiming for the least possible tax to give the greatest possible choice. As we can afford it, we'll move to a 20p basic rate for all. That's our priority.

We know that cutting taxes isn't government giving anything back to people. It's the government taking away less of people's own money. That's why low taxes are right. So, to encourage wealth creation for the future, we'll reduce then abolish capital gains tax.

Many people in our country build up savings long after they've enough for their own needs. One reason they do that is to pass on the fruits of their life's work to their children and grandchildren. This is a powerful, human emotion. So, over time, our next target is to remove inheritance tax. Building wealth for the many, not the few.

WELFARE: People treasure in-

dependence. Their own independence. The State is the last option, not the first. The more independence, the less reliance. The less reliance, the more we can help those in real need. But as we accept responsibility, so much people themselves. Dependency must be about needs not culture.

I can't stand the welfare cheats. They deprive those in real need. Our task is to build a welfare system for the 21st century. A system for a self-help society — not a help-yourself society. And one way of building independence is to get more people back to work.

We're now doing that on a scale that's the envy of Europe — partly because we refuse to make political gestures that cost jobs. That's why I say "no" to the minimum wage and "no" to the social chapter.

But government can help the unemployed. We don't want to pay people to stay on the dole. We do want to help them get back into work. So first we're going to help those who've been out of work the longest. They're the people for whom the barriers to opportunity are highest. First we give them help

to find a job and if that doesn't succeed, they'll be offered work on a community project. For many it's just the motivation they need. But it also shows up those who don't want to work. I think that's right.

HEALTH: Our NHS is unique. In this country, when you're ill, we take your temperature. In other

countries, they take your credit card. While I'm in Downing Street, that will never happen here. That doesn't mean the National Health Service shouldn't change. It must. If it were fossilised, it would decline. I saw that clearly the other day when Norma and I visited a doctor's surgery in Glossop.

The family doctor is the gateway to the Health Service. More people see their doctor than anyone else. This was a fundholding practice — part of our reforms — and, in its own small way, an example of the quiet revolution of the NHS. Waiting lists had been slashed. People no longer had to trek to the district hospital. More services were available. More money spent on patients, not paperwork. Now, this practice is one of the very best. But that excellent service could be the future everywhere.

And this autumn, Stephen Dorrell will introduce a Bill to do just that — giving family doctors greater freedom to develop local services in their surgeries — creating a new generation of cottage hospitals all over Britain.

And that's only half of it. In the autumn, Stephen will set out our ambitious plans to build the National Health Service for the 21st Century. Before the end of this year, we'll unveil new plans to help mentally ill people followed by new plans to reform social care for children, disabled people and the elderly. For over 17 years, through thick and thin, we Conservatives

have found extra money for the NHS. So today, I give you a Health Service guarantee. Our manifesto will pledge that the NHS will get more — over and above inflation — year, on year, on year, on year, on year through five years of the next Conservative Government.

EUROPE: The sharpest element of the European debate is the possibility of a single currency. We know that where Britain's national interest is at stake Britain's national voice must be heard. Europe is changing. In a few years, Europe will have 26 or 27 members. They'll be wildly different. Many of them will never match the economic performance of the larger nations. So, how do we cope with this?

We believe Europe must become more flexible and responsive. That's the only realistic future is as a partnership of nations, not a United States of Europe. But some of our partners do see the future of Europe as ever closer political as well as economic integration. We don't believe this is practical. Nor, to be frank, desirable. It's not the Europe we joined and it's not a Europe we can accept.

BRITAIN: A buccaneering spirit, gritty resolve, give and take, a conviction that everyone is entitled to the same dignity, courtesy, and esteem because of what they are, not who they are. These are some of the values we share. That's what makes us a nation. Down the centuries, they have moulded our democracy, the Union, Parliament, our voting system.

It's naive to think that radical change would be easy or risk-free. And it's revealing to look at Labour's plans. Their priority would be to gerrymander the British constitution. They're avid for more parliaments, more assemblies. Their policy is in chaos. On Scottish referenda, they change sides more often than a windscreen wiper. What a message: vote Labour — for more politicians, more bureaucrats, more taxes, more regulations, more tampering, more meddling, more authoritarianism. If this is the new gospel, give me the old religion. In less than 1,000 days, Labour would vandalise nearly 1,000 years of British history.

I didn't come from two rooms in Brighton to 10 Downing Street not to go out and fight with every fibre of my being for what I believe in. So at the election where will I be? I'll be out in the towns and streets. Where you are, I'll be the one talking to the people in the middle of the crowd. So come and join me. And I promise you — we'll win.

Leading article, page 19

country has seen for a generation. We set out to create jobs. And we're succeeding. Unemployment is lower here than in any comparable country in Europe. Curiously enough, the Labour leader didn't mention these successes in his flight of fancy last week. Pages missing perhaps?

The plain truth is I'm the first Prime Minister for generations who can say "We're the most competitive economy in Europe". And I intend to be the Prime Minister who builds on that success after we've won the next general election. At that election there's a central question. It's this: who can be trusted with the future?

Labour try to persuade people it's them. "We're different" they say. "We've changed our name." "Rely on us — you know we've always been wrong in the past." Well, that's candid — if a touch eccentric. Trouble is, they're wrong in the present as well. And it simply won't do for Mr Blair to say: "Look, I'm

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## Briton who set up Philippine sex tours jailed for 16 years

By ABBY TAN IN MANILA, MICHAEL HORSNELL AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

A BRITISH travel agent has been sentenced to the maximum 16 years for promoting child prostitution in the Philippines after being trapped by an undercover campaigner from Christian Aid.

Michael Clarke, 50, advertised £600 sex holidays in a brochure promising that clients would find an "Adult Disney World". He is the third foreigner to be convicted under a tough new law aimed at protecting the nation's 60,000 child prostitutes.

Clarke, from Eastbourne, was clandestinely filmed offering to arrange child prostitutes, which he called "chickens", for Martin Cottenham, who was posing as a client but works for Christian Aid in London.

Clarke was later tracked down in the Philippines by Father Shay Cullen, an Irish priest who devotes his life to saving children and women from the island's thriving sex industry. As he was sentenced, Clarke shouted: "I'm completely innocent. I have suffered enough" before being taken back to the provincial prison where he gives other inmates 30p hairs in order to buy cigarettes. He said that he would file a "strong appeal".

Clarke's sex tour itinerary



Father Shay Cullen, who tracked down Clarke

included "a short Jeep ride into 'Sin City' to a very special establishment, the 'OK Corral', where dozens of headstrong young 'fillies' are tethered". Clients were invited to "choose your mount".

A divorcee with an adult daughter, he told potential customers he could arrange sex with girls as young as 12. "You have to give her a nice time and treat her to, say, hamburger and chips," he said, "something she's probably never eaten before. Then she'll do what you ask her for."

Olongapo, the former site of an American naval base, is infamous for bars and nightclubs that once catered to US servicemen, as is Clarke's

other sex holiday destination, Angeles City. Father Cullen, who runs a refugee organisation, Preda, used his contacts to trace Clarke to a rented beach bungalow a year ago.

The priest realised a westerner was living there because the shirts on the washing line were bigger than a Filipinos. He called the police after finding a handmade poster outside the building with a drawing of a naked boy tied to a spit over a fire and the promise: "Outrageous happenings on the beach. Dr Crazy will bring you on a tour."

Father Cullen said: "He has called me the Devil who was trying to persecute him. He deserves that sentence for promoting kids and being a terrible exploitation of the poor."

Clarke, an ex-market trader, also ran a scam aimed at the yachting community on the South Coast of England, persuading victims to send a £55 insurance fee to appear in a non-existent epic sailing movie being filmed in Thailand. He operated the fraud from a telephone in a girlie bar.

Another Briton, Douglas Slade, a former seaman, is awaiting trial on child-molestation charges.



Michael Clarke is driven away in handcuffs after being sentenced to 16 years jail

## Tourist killed in crash on Majorca

By ADRIAN LEE

A BRITISH holidaymaker died and 45 others were injured when their coach overturned after a head-on collision with a car in Majorca.

The dead woman was named by Spanish police as Dawn Parker, 30, a supermarket worker who was on her first holiday abroad. Her son James, 11, had to be cut from the wreckage and suffered serious leg injuries. The Spanish driver of the car, which apparently skidded into the path of the coach, causing it to veer off the road, was also killed.

Last night ten people were still being treated at four hospitals. The accident happened close to Campos, about 12 miles from the capital Palma, as the coach was returning the tourists to their hotels and apartments at 1am after an excursion. Some 56 British tourists, a British holiday company representative and a Spanish driver were on board. All the tourists had booked their holidays

through Sunworld of Bromley, southeast London. Their ages ranged from five to 93. A company spokeswoman said the holidaymakers were from various parts of Britain. "My understanding is that the majority of those injured suffered cuts and bruises," she said.

All were on one or two-week package holidays and had spent the evening at a traditional "fiesta meal and cabaret" in Son Amat. Many were staying at the Club Aguamar in Calas de Mallorca on the east coast of the island. Others were at the Club Cala Barca and the Malaga One.

Dawn Parker was from Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, and worked in a supermarket, according to reports yesterday. Her husband Michael, 30, and three other sons, aged five, six and nine, were also all injured.

□ The emergency number for friends and relatives of those involved is 0113-236 1777.

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## Moroccans unlikely to free pregnant British teenager

By JOANNA BALE

A PREGNANT British teenager jailed for drug smuggling in Morocco after her father tipped-off police is unlikely to be granted her request to be released before the birth.

Sally Griffiths, 18, discovered she was pregnant two months into her five-year sentence and asked for her freedom in an appeal court on Thursday, so that her baby, expected in April, would not be born in prison. Her solicitor, Stephen Jakobi of Fair Trials Abroad, said yesterday: "We are confident that the sentence will be reduced, but she is likely to give birth while in prison." The result of the appeal will be known on Thursday.

A Moroccan Embassy spokesman said yesterday that Miss Griffiths would be allowed to choose between keeping the baby or handing it over to relatives. He said: "She will be able to give birth in a hospital and keep the baby with her in prison until it reaches the age of two, which is the age when Moroccan women traditionally stop breastfeeding."

"After that it will be given to the next of kin to look after because it is not fair on an older child to bring it up in prison. She can also hand the child to her next of kin straight after the birth if she wants to."

Miss Griffiths, who became pregnant just before her arrest in July, was sentenced with

five years for smuggling drugs



Griffiths: five years for smuggling drugs

# Wickes

# SALE

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PAGE 25

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 1996

Clarke pledge propels  
pound to 20-month highBY JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS  
CORRESPONDENT

THE POUND was the star performer on foreign exchanges yesterday, surging to a 20-month high against the German mark as the markets reacted with relief to the Chancellor's pledge that he will not throw away sensible economic policies to win votes.

The pound jumped to DM2.4124 from DM2.3955, its highest level since February 1995. In the past two months alone sterling has appreciated by nearly 6 per cent against the German currency. Against a basket of currencies, the pound closed at 87.8. This was its best level for 20 months and nearly 5 per cent higher than two months ago.

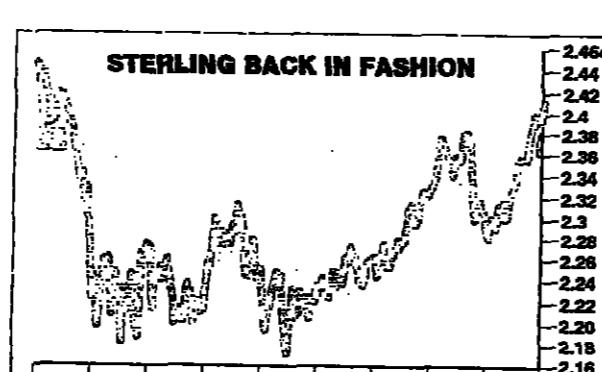
The stock market joined in the optimism and was given a further boost by a buoyant

Wall Street. The FT-SE 100 index closed 33.4 points higher, at 4,028.1.

Ken Clarke's warning to the Conservative Party conference in Bournemouth on Thursday, that he would not cut taxes unless they were sustainable, removed one element of political risk from investing in the pound. A layer of risk had already been taken out of sterling the previous week when Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor, promised fiscal and monetary discipline.

Tony Norfield, currency strategist at ABN Amro, said that the apparent commitment to sensible economic policies by both main election contenders is the main reason for the latest leg of sterling's rally rather than euphoria about a successful Tory conference.

"The real issue is that Ken Clarke has said that he will not indulge in a last-ditch attempt at crazy policies in



order to win votes," Mr Norfield said.

The removal of most of the obvious political risks after the conference season has added to other factors that have fuelled sterling's rise. As recently as Thursday, for example, the pound rallied after a small but disappointing rise in underlying inflation to 2.9 per cent in September, from 2.8

per cent in August. This appeared finally to rule out another cut in base rates.

Other factors helping the pound include the strength of the dollar and the developing situation in Europe. As it has appeared more likely that a single currency will go ahead but possibly on fudged economic criteria, so the perception has grown that the euro, when established, may be a soft rather than the hard currency always envisaged.

This has undermined the mark and helped those currencies less likely to join a first wave of entrants into the euro, but which are still striving to meet the Maastricht economic convergence criteria — positive in the view of investors.

Unravelling the "euro effect" on currencies is difficult, but, as economists at Swiss Bank commented yesterday: "When it all gets confusing, buy sterling." However, as the European policies of the Conservative and Labour parties develop, the pound has the advantage of being backed by an economy that has shown healthy, sustained growth without inflationary pressures, while many European economies are just emerging weakly from recession.

Runaway form, page 24

Bejam founder  
set to profit as  
Majestic floats

BY PAUL DURMAN

JOHN APTHORP, founder of the Bejam frozen food chain, will make his second stock market fortune next month, when Majestic Wines floats on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) for an estimated £20 million.

This places a £14 million value on the 70 per cent stake in Majestic that Mr Apthorp and his family will retain after selling nearly £15 million of shares in the flotation. The family made more than £60 million when Bejam was taken over by Iceland in 1989.

Majestic's 59 warehouses only sell wine by the case. Its customers, many of them wine enthusiasts, spend an average £34 a purchase. Four out of every five of Majestic's staff are graduates, who are encouraged to develop their knowledge of wine so that they are able to advise customers on potential purchases. The



Crate expectations: Tim How believes Majestic has the potential to double in size

BUSINESS  
TODAY

STOCK MARKET  
INDICES

TSE 100 4028.1 (+33.4)  
3.88%  
TSE All share 1976.98 (+13.09)  
20968.15 (-97.33)

New York Dow Jones 5963.04 (+41.37)\*  
S&P Composite 698.88 (+5.27)\*

London 1.5749\* (1.5685)

3-month Interbank 6.57% (6.56%)

Long term gilt future (Dec) 110% (110%)

STERLING

New York 1.5749\* (1.5685)

London 1.5753 (1.5682)

DM 2.4125 (2.3980)

FFR 8.1837 (8.1810)

SFR 1.9770 (1.9610)

Yen 175.82 (174.20)

£ Index 67.8 (67.2)

US DOLLAR

London DM 1.5312\* (1.5282)

FFR 7.2545\* (7.2495)

SFR 111.85\* (111.27)

Yen 97.4 (97.3)

Tokyo close Yen 111.37

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec) \$23.50 (\$23.20)

GOLD

London close \$381.65 (\$381.65)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Wickes investors still in the dark

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

WICKES, the DIY retailer, has again delayed the letter to long-suffering shareholders that will explain how it came to overstate profits by about £50 million over the past three years. The delay is believed to have been caused by a failure of the board and its advisers to agree who to blame for the affair.

The company promised to inform shareholders of the

findings of an investigation by Price Waterhouse, the accountant, and Linklaters & Paines, the solicitor, by September 30. Then it indicated that the letters would be sent out by the end of this week. The letter is not now expected until the middle of next week because directors and their advisers have failed to agree on how to describe the roles of various people in the affair.

Henry Sweetbaum, former chairman and chief executive of Wickes, resigned the day after its shares were suspended on June 26 after the discovery of accounting irregularities. Since then, Les Rosenthal, group trading director, and Chris Miles, commercial director, have also resigned. Wickes has yet to decide whether to pursue legal action against former employ-

ees or others who are implicated.

The shares are unlikely to be readmitted for trading until December. The writedown to take into account the overstatement of profits mean that the company is expected to attempt a £30 million rights issue and to sell some overseas operations. A buyer, possibly B&Q or RMC, is expected to emerge in the long term.

Whitbread, tipped as a potential bidder, yesterday said it was not interested in tabling an offer. Sources close to Granada and United News & Media indicated that they were also not in the running. However, analysts say the club's success in building its leisure business and the potential revenues from TV, particularly pay-per-view, make the group an increasingly attractive target. It is thought that a bidder would have to pay upwards of £400 million to buy the company.

The shares rose in spite of a statement from Manchester United that it was not aware of any proposals. Last night Mr Edwards said: "We have never said that we are interested in any way in selling Manchester United. We are successful, so there will be interest, but it is not something we would ever encourage."

one approach this year by VCI, Michael Grade's video distribution company. Its 48p a share offer valued the company at about £300 million.

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## Press might care to take its regulatory cue from the City

I couldn't resist. The invitation to write this piece came on the day that Lord Wakeham fired yet another warning shot across the bows of the fourth estate about the need to act in accordance with the spirit of self-regulation. His letter to *The Times* ended with the somewhat pious hope that they "would rise to the challenge".

The irony was inescapable, especially to me, having until fairly recently been a City regulator who was at the receiving end for many years of some of the media's general scepticism about self-regulation. Their argument was usually along the lines of the Financial Services Act system of regulation being self-interested, a soft touch, generally about "chaps letting each other off over lunch", usually coupled with the suggestion that

what we really needed was a US-style Securities and Exchange Commission with real teeth to sort out the perceived problems.

So it doesn't seem unreasonable to take this opportunity to make the observation about what appears to be the complete absence of any real teeth in the self-regulatory regime for the press. Certainly in contrast to what practitioners in the financial services industry have to put up with these days.

When was the last time you heard about a journalist who had a licence to pursue his or her profession revoked, and therefore being forced to switch careers, or being fined, or being told to take examinations, or being subject to an ongoing "fit and proper test"? The City regulators, on the other hand, do all of these things on a

regular basis — to both firms and individuals.

Interestingly, Lord Wakeham's organisation only acts when it receives a complaint. Hence its name. On that basis City regulators such as the SFA and IMRO could let most of their staff go as they wouldn't have much to do at all.

Another issue worth airing is the "good news is no news" problem. Journalists would sometimes ask why we, at the SFA, had not issued a disciplinary notice for a while. The suggestion being that we were not doing our job properly. It was never considered very helpful for us to point out that, for the most part, firms were complying with the rules and complaints from their customers were few and far between.



Christopher Sharples

In point of fact, good news stories about the City are not hard to come by. There is no shortage of overseas firms wanting to set up shop here and so one of its greatest

strengths, namely its critical mass of banks and other financial organisations, remains unchallenged. Equally important is the way in which some of its key institutions are adept at reinventing themselves in the face of rapid change.

One such example is the Stock Exchange, which for a while was really on the ropes with hardly a friend in sight. To avoid allegations of *steak I had better declare an interest as a vendor of their real-time prices, consequently paying them large sums of money*. Now, however, they really seem to be getting their act together.

Under the more stable and measured influence of its current senior executives it has achieved the successful completion of a major software project known as

Sequence (on time and within budget, as Christine Dinn is fond of saying); it has been trading record volumes; it has enabled 200 smaller companies to raise capital on the AIM market; it has attracted more overseas companies than New York and it has embraced new technology generally as an agent for change in the creation of a new order-driven market.

SEAO International may always have been just a transitional arrangement while other European countries caught up in terms of their domestic markets, but a more promising future beckons in terms of the listing in London of overseas companies. Apparently there are nearly 1,000 companies in China already who are in a position, should they choose to do so, to list in London under the new

agreements signed last week. The Exchange is busily marketing itself to several other countries such as Vietnam, India and Indonesia.

Of course, it certainly helps to have a regulatory regime that is pragmatic, involves practitioners, has a wide range of disciplinary sanctions as well as the statutory backing and, therefore, the teeth necessary to deal with those who break not only the rules but also the spirit of self-regulation, which is what it's all about.

Perhaps Lord Wakeham's Press Complaints Commission could take a leaf...

□ Christopher Sharples is chairman of ICV and past chairman of the Securities and Futures Authority

## Dow sustains runaway form

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE Dow Jones industrial average celebrated the longest bull phase in its history yesterday with a rise of more than 40 points. It has broken all previous records for a continuous rise in share prices during which there has not been a 10 per cent correction.

Canny investors who put their money into the market on October 11, 1990 after the 21 per cent market fall associated with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, have seen the Dow climb from 2,365 to above 6,000, an increase of 153 per cent. The S&P 500, a wider measure of share prices has soared from 295 to 700, while the Nasdaq index, which mea-

sures small company stocks, has risen 270 per cent.

Some analysts are worried that a bull market that breaks all historical precedents cannot have much further to run.

Lazlo Birinyi of Birinyi Associates, a Connecticut broking firm, said: "My view is that the market can't keep rising like this, but I have to admit that so far I've been wrong."

The stock market has benefited from a benign combination of low interest and inflation rates, solid economic growth and a frenzy of equity investment by the so-called "baby boom" generation. Money flowing into mutual [US] unit trust funds has

averaged nearly \$20 billion a month for the past year. "It is different from any previous bull market," said Joseph Bartipaglia, equity strategist at Grunthal & Co.

In spite of a summer setback when many analysts believed the market was entering a long-term decline, share prices recovered and then raced above 6,000. Few Wall Street experts had expected the Dow to reach that level this year.

Ominously, however, some of the excesses that emerged before the 1987 crash are showing up again. Salaries on Wall Street have broken all records this year, with multi-million-dollar bonuses for

Tempus, page 26



Mike Piercy wants GlycoSport to be used by people other than athletes like Sally Gunnell

## GlycoSport joins Ofex

GLYCOSPORT, the high-energy sport drink, is coming to the Ofex market in an offer for subscription which capitalises GlycoSport Soft Drinks, its producer, at £1.5 million (Fraser Nelson writes).

The drink offers calorie release without sugar or glucose additives. Since 1993, it has been used by athletes — including Sally Gunnell, the Olympic hurdler — but its medicinal taste has prohibi-

ed marketing to the general public.

Mike Piercy, who founded Universal Wines and Spirits, set up GSD in 1994 to make the drink more palatable. Since June, it has been available through Boots stores in a lemon flavour.

GSD, which is sponsoring tomorrow's Manchester Marathon, is raising £700,000 from the issue, as St James's Partners places seven million of its shares at 10p each.

## TNT share trader eludes authorities

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

THE mystery surrounding the true identity of Mark Booth, the alleged insider trader, intensified yesterday as the Australian authorities revealed that he had written to his broker to explain his actions, but had not revealed his whereabouts.

The man, thought to be British, who made a £52 million profit from options dealing ahead of Dutch group KPN's surprise £2 billion bid for TNT, the Australian transport group, last week, is understood to have contacted Ord Minnett, the Sydney stockbroker, by mail on two occasions since the controversial transaction.

Rosie Webb, a lawyer with the Australian Securities Commission, said yesterday that the commission did not know who the man was. "We really haven't got a lead on whether that is his real name or not. We are following various avenues to try and find out who he is," she said. The Federal Court agreed this week to a continued freeze

of the profits from the transaction, while the commission continues its investigations.

TNT shares were trading at about A\$1.56 each when Mr Booth bought call options over five million TNT shares at an exercise price of A\$2. They are now trading at A\$2.40, just below KPN's offer price of A\$2.45 a share.

Mr Booth is understood to have ordered the options in TNT over the telephone and paid with untraceable bank cheques, while the telephone numbers linked to him have led only to an answer machine.

Chris Gorman, managing director of Ord Minnett, said Mr Booth's letter gave "an absolute denial of any insider knowledge" and set out his commercial reasons for buying the TNT call options when he did. Mr Gorman said he did not know whether Booth was in Australia at all, admitting: "I don't know where he is at this point in time, if I knew where he was, the ASC would know where he was."

## Ferry wars claim jobs as Stena service ends

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE cross-Channel price war claimed another victim yesterday, when Stena announced that it is to pull out of its heavily loss-making Southampton to Cherbourg route at a cost of 169 jobs.

The service, which is losing a "seven-figure sum" annually, has been operating since

1991. It was killed off by cut-price deals on the short Dover to Calais crossing and the opening of the Channel Tunnel, the company said.

Passenger volumes on the route have fallen steadily since the peak of 1994, when the service was used by 581,000 people. This fell to 549,000 last year and to 400,000 in the first nine months of this year, a fall of 15 per cent on the same period in 1995.

A spokesman for Stena said that passenger numbers had failed to respond to a "very aggressive" pricing and marketing campaign this year, which had seen brochure prices cut by 20 per cent in the peak season.

The service, which offered one round trip a day in winter and two in summer, will cease in December.

However, the spokesman said it would maintain a presence in the "Western Channel" through a new fast ferry service between Portsmouth and Cherbourg starting next year.

## Alpha profits down

Alpha Airports Group, the retailer and flight services group, suffered an 11 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £10 million in the six months to July 31. The results were in line with expectations, after a profit warning in August, but Alpha shares fell 3p to 107½p.

Its catering division, which serves about 33 million meals a year, saw operating profits fall by £2.5 million to £4.3 million, largely because of increased losses in America. The interim dividend is maintained at 1.75p. Tempus, page 26

## Insurance rise

Car insurance premiums have risen significantly for the first time in more than two years, according to the AA. On average, drivers are paying £20.24 more for comprehensive cover now than three months ago, and £14.95 more for third-party insurance.

The AA's British Insurance Premium Index, which covers the three months to October, reveals that buildings insurance costs have increased by £1.46 in the last three months although contents cover costs 12p less.

## Tullow grows

Tullow Oil, the Dublin oil and gas producer and explorer, plans to expand its operations over the next year, the company said yesterday. The company reported a 43 per cent increase in interim pre-tax profits to £11.2 million. Earnings per share jumped 36 per cent to 10.64p, compared with 10.47p. Again there is no dividend.

## New base

Airtours, the tour operator, is establishing a subsidiary in California to expand its activities in North America. Sunquest Holdings, to be based in Los Angeles from April 1997, will offer holidays from California to Hawaii, Mexico and the Caribbean. Airtours shares rose 13p to 606½p.

## Cliveden buys

Cliveden, the luxury hotels and leisure club company, has acquired the Royal Crescent Hotel in Bath from Queens Moat Houses for £8.5 million. The company plans to refurbish the hotel over the next year and develop a club facility in the same style as its showpiece hotel at Cliveden, Berkshire.

## Prices fall

Output prices for manufacturing industries in the Irish Republic fell 0.2 per cent in September from the previous month, the Central Statistics Office said yesterday. On a year-on-year basis, prices fell 0.7 per cent.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

### Virgin laid bare

Richard Branson remains one of most written about but least understood businessmen in the world. The Sunday Times has for the first time assembled a detailed picture of his Virgin empire...

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## TOURIST RATES

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Angola	17.97	18.97
Anguilla	62.40	48.10
Antigua	22.23	20.99
Argentina	0.764	0.765
Barbados	0.78	0.88
Bolivia	0.75	0.75
France	0.81	0.80
Bolivia	0.55	0.55
Brunei Darussalam	0.50	0.50
Greenland	0.50	0.50
Hong Kong	12.77	11.77
Iceland	1.15	1.15
Ireland	1.03	0.95
Israel Shk	5.28	4.74
Japan Yen	109.99	109.50
Korea Won	186.00	172.80
Macao	0.8000	0.8004
Macao Pataca	0.42	0.42
New Zealand	2.42	2.20
Norway	10.75	9.95
Peru	20.00	20.00
Qatar Rial	7.72	6.92
Spain Pta	20.50	19.50
South Africa	10.00	10.50
Switzerland Fr	2.08	1.91
USA \$	1.602	1.4100
Yugoslavia	1.00	1.00

Rates for small denominations are supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates for traveller's cheques. Rates of closure of leading yesterday.

Virgin

## A WORKING WEEK FOR: WALTER HASSELKUS

## German spins wheel of fortune at Rover

Oliver August follows the tracks of the man charged with rediscovering what it was that once made British motors work so well

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday

WALTER HASSELKUS is not a trouble-shooter with a carving knife concealed behind his back. Nor is he the stereotypical wooden and humourless German. Rover head office can undo the seat belts. The new chief executive will not try to turn Rover into a BMW clone.

Herr Hasselkus is more at home at the RAC Club on Pall Mall in London than in a beer tent at the Munich Oktoberfest, and had been BMW's head of European sales. Having moved to Britain six weeks ago, he would now like to apply for RAC membership.

His sense of humour is suitably dry, so much so that it is even acceptable to the bowler hats who walk the marble halls. Herr Hasselkus, 54, jokes about being too busy to boost the German birthrate, maybe the only way of pushing up industrial output. When asked about the European social chapter, he disarmingly replies that he too would like to have a shorter working week "but it's just not possible".

His day starts at 7.30 and, as befits the head of a motor company, it starts in a car, in which he studies documents on the way to his office.

Herr Hasselkus has swapped a fleet of BMWs with Munich licence plates for a Range Rover on business trips and a Rover 800 for his wife. So if Rover's production standards were to slip, the new boss from the Bavarian head office would notice. "I don't have a problem with reading in a Rover," he said approvingly.

Herr Hasselkus trained as a lawyer, but his love affair with the motor car goes back half a century. "I love cars and I am interested in motor racing. I'm not really a racing driver myself but I regularly go to grand prix or touring car races."

At the weekend, when the chauffeur is off-duty, he drives an Austin Healey 59. "I always liked British sports cars. When I was 12 I knew someone who had an Austin Healey. He gave me a lift. I think only once, but the car stuck in my mind ever since. And when I could afford it I bought one, though I am not a collector of classic cars."

The Hasselkus home is in Oxfordshire, though the chief executive has so far spent little time there, other than for sleeping, his days filled with briefings and budget negotiations.

Taking over at the helm of a foreign flagship company would have tested any German's work ethic to the limit. Herr Hasselkus is not only new to Rover and almost new to Britain (he was on a short BMW secondment to London in the early 1980s), he is also a

relative newcomer to the car industry. Until last year, he was overseeing BMW's motorcycle business and is still a member of the main BMW board. While this means that he has to spend a few days in Munich every month, it also gives Rover a voice at the top table, which it was lacking under John Towers, from whom Herr Hasselkus took over.

With his self-confessed ignorance of the UK car sector, it came as quite a surprise when he was asked to deliver a speech on the centenary of the British car industry at the 1996 Motor Show next Tuesday. His experience of the industry comprises exactly six weeks of hectic meetings, interspersed with visits to Rover plants around the country. The travelling, at least, will have made sure that he has spent some time in a British car, not something many German car builders can say.

His day at the Motor Show will start at the Rover stand at 8.15. He then has ten hours to stroll around and learn something about his British competitors before giving his "state of the nation" address during the gala dinner.

After dinner, he will return to his wife and their 17-year-old son, who attends an international school in Abingdon. They moved into the new family home

It took a foreigner to tell Rover that the Mini is a cult car

last week, leaving behind two daughters who are studying at German universities.

Even at the weekend, however, the family does not necessarily see very much of Herr Hasselkus, who is a keen sportsman.

He plays tennis, but "not very well". Apparently he wielded a

racket so frequently during his student days that he was considered among peers to be rather better suited to the physical than the mental. He is also an enthusiastic skier, though again, he emphasises, "not a very good one".

Herr Hasselkus is a model of English self-deprecation. Asked about modern car technology, he smiles, shrugs and says: "Don't ask me. I hardly understand it myself."

But behind the smooth veneer is a man who likes straight-talking. Rover executives will doubtless learn to appreciate their new boss's honesty, which borders on bluntness. Though polite and almost coy, he comes to the point before you can say Mini.

Sporting a soft 4in frame, he dominates the board. At the BMW head office he recently told other executives that it was "utter nonsense" to attempt to impose BMW quality standards on the production of the revamped Mini.

Herr Hasselkus has his own vision of what he wants Rover to become. The greatest change that customers will notice over the next few years is the reduction in Rover models. Executives have been crowding around drawing



Walter Hasselkus has swapped a fleet of BMWs with Munich licence plates for a Range Rover on business trips and a Rover 800, used by his wife

boards to discuss plans for two new cars, one combining the Rover 600 and 800, the other the Rover 200 and 400. With this culling exercise, Herr Hasselkus wants to give Rover the same focus that made BMW a successful exporter. The Rover range, he says, is too fragmented to break into foreign markets at the moment. "We are not where we want to be," he said. "We will be applying the same quality control mechanisms to Rover as to One Rover."

Then there is the Mini. One Rover executive said: "Mr Hasselkus taught us that the Mini is not a product but a brand." It took a foreigner to alert the company to the fact that the Mini is a cult car around the world. From Germany to Japan car enthusiasts do not care much for Rovers but they spend millions every year to individualise their Minis, with anything from leather seats to shark fins on the roof.

The Japanese even organise regular competitions for the best Mini revamps. The new Mini will be sold as a luxury product rather than as a cheap car, part of the Hasselkus revolution. So did he find chaos when he arrived at Rover? He is diplomatic.

"There were no skeletons in the cupboards, no surprises. But we want to take Rover up-market. What will sell the cars is their Britishness — to me, that means elegance. The design must be British not German. The world is waiting for great British motor cars."

He insists there was no culture clash and he wasn't sent in by the head office to get tough. Accusations that the British workforce is "lazy, stubborn and

incompetent" are simply false. The way that Herr Hasselkus puts it is that "the BMW organisation is more confident than the Rover organisation. BMW is very much used to being successful and has always had very clear direction from the top. Rover is different."

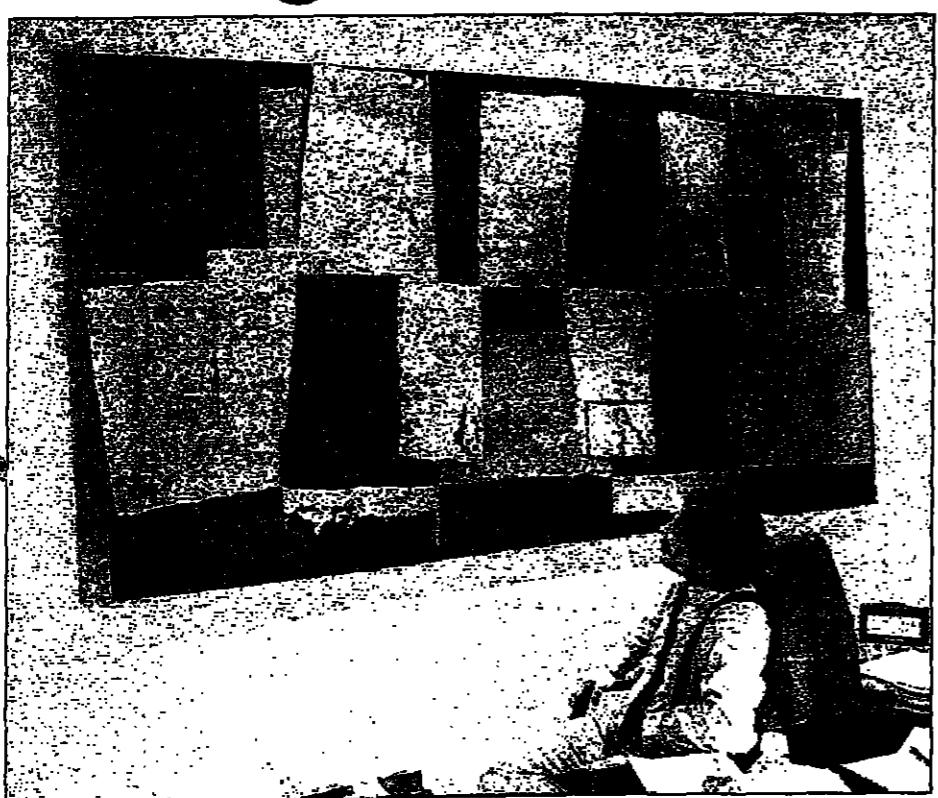
Contrary to suggestions, Herr Hasselkus did not arrive with an entourage of hatchet men from Munich. In fact, he is the only German among the top 400 Rover executives. And, unsurprisingly, most of those bosses do not speak German. They breathed a collective sigh of relief when BMW bosses announced after the 1994 acquisition that the official group language was going to be English.

The only other new German speaker in the executive suite is Herr Hasselkus's secretary. She moved over from another department within Rover and often speaks to her boss in German even though he is perfectly fluent in English. Indeed, Herr Hasselkus is keen to ensure continuity at Rover. Over the past two decades, Rover has on average had a new chief executive every other year, while BMW has had only two in the last 25 years. Herr Hasselkus would like to stay in his position until his retirement in six years' time. This would be a record tenure for Rover.

Come 2002, the true measure of his success will be whether the British public has accepted the revamped BMW-modelled Rover. In a speech to the Anglo-German Chamber of Commerce last month, Howard Davies, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, told the audience about his car. "I am very happy to drive a BMW," he said. "Never mind that it was a Land Rover Discovery when I bought it." Herr Hasselkus chuckled.

## HIDDEN ASSETS

## Elegant abstraction amid a sea of grey desks



Highly coloured view: one of the collection of spectacular oils at Lloyd Thompson

Joanna Pitman discovers an insurance broker's art collection that catches the eye — and holds it

Long & Ryle has put together a spectacular group of vast canvases of colour bursting with drama, variety and pace. The collection embraces elegant abstraction, quirky figurative, and detailed records of an invented private world. The often repeated criticism that recent art is obscure and hermetic seems to be well off the mark when one is confronted with this variety.

Some of Britain's leading emerging artists are represented. Estelle Thompson, now a much collected young artist who has just had her latest show at the Purdy Hicks Gallery, lures the visitor from the reception area into the open-plan offices with a series of sharp ironic oils — luminous colour applied with an ordinary household decorator's roller brush to create 5ft by 10ft banks of shimmering light that draw in the attentions and questions of the viewer.

Sarah Long, of Long & Ryle, says: "We had a fairly open brief and a pretty tight budget on the collection. One of the directors came to the gallery and we selected some of the

core pieces together. It was a very difficult space to fill successfully. Just endless plain beige walls and a sea of grey desks in the middle, all lined up in rows. But I think the only way to tackle it was to have as many big colourful abstracts as possible in order to make the walls and the spaces memorable."

Good collections have a focus, and if this collection has one it is abstract colour, with an emphasis on imagined landscapes placed so as to engulf the viewer and take them away from the world of marine and non-marine issues.

But the collection is not bound by narrow inferences of subject or material and the result is dramatic and inspiring, particularly as the current generation of British graduate artists seem to show none of the ponderous, issue-based solemnity of some of their American counterparts.

Dillyn Smith, a 38-year-old graduate of the Royal College of Art, who is now attracting international attention, has three huge oil abstracts in the collection. Sophie Knight, a graduate of the Royal Academy and

Camberwell School of Art, has an intriguing piece entitled "Summer's End". Sarah Long says: "These big abstracts together make up the core of a very good collection. Several of the artists represented have become widely collected in the three years since we put this collection together and the value of their work has probably doubled in that time."

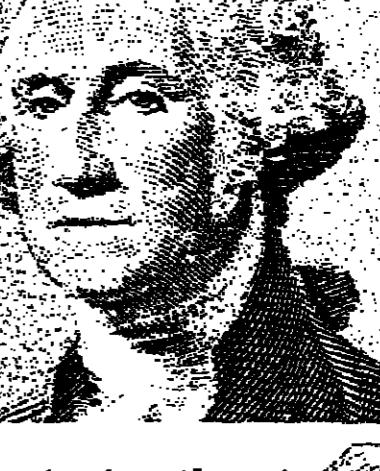
The element of risk in putting together this sort of collection of emerging young artists is perhaps one that specially appeals to an insurance broker. But the risk of this particular investment — just £100,000 for 66 works — is nothing to the risk of the reactions of the worker bees in the office.

It seems that approval is far from widespread. One distinctly alienated inmate says: "I'm glad I don't have to look at that blood-spattered scene of purple gloom. This one looks like a whole lot of painted paper doilies. My daughter does that sort of thing at school."

It seems that Estelle Thompson's art collecting policy still faces a long struggle for acceptance. On the other hand, the choice may have been deliberately made to appeal to visiting clients and to keep the worker bees peering diligently into their computer screens.

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# London bounces back above the 4,000 level

SHARES on the London stock market rebounded, ending back above the 4,000 level and just a few points short of the all-time closing high. The FTSE 100 index closed at its best of the day, with a rise of 33.4 to 4,028.1, supported by a strong opening rise on Wall Street.

London got off to a flying start on the back of an encouraging CBI distributive trades survey and the apparent show of unity on the final day of the Conservative Party conference in Bournemouth. Later in the day, the market took heart from US retail sales and producer prices, both of which provided evidence of an economic slowdown.

Trading conditions generally proved thin, with prices squeezed higher by stock shortages. By the close, a total of 643 million shares had changed hands, with the final figure swollen by some weighty lines of stock being absorbed in the market.

They included 20 million Sears at 90p, as the price firmed 1p to 91p, and 1.57 million Bass at 757.1p, as the price fell 10p to 757p. Other lines on offer included 3.39 million Asda, 1p lighter at 1035.1p; 1.7 million J Sainsbury, 3p easier at 352p; and 1.7 million Vodafone, 3p pence at 230p.

EMI Group was depressed by talk of falling record sales within the industry. The price fell 10p to £1.85. A little later, a line of 1.5 million shares came on offer at £1.70.

The financial performance of Manchester United is almost surpassing that of its Premiership side on the pitch these days. The shares shot up 19p to an all-time high of 501.4p after a report in *The Times* suggesting that a bid may be on the way from either near neighbour Granada. Whitbread or United News & Media, publisher of the *Daily Express*.

It is said the terms of such a deal would value the league and cup double winners at £350 million, but the club was quick to play down the story yesterday. A spokesman said the club was not aware of any proposals which could lead to an offer being made for the company.

Manchester United recently turned down an offer worth £300 million from Michael Grade, boss of Channel 4 and VCI, the video distributor. That followed comments from Martin Edwards, chief execu-



Airtours shares rose on the launch of a US subsidiary

tive, that he might be prepared to sell if the price was right. Edwards currently holds 17 per cent of Manchester United, which earlier this week reported a drop in pre-tax profits to £16.7 million.

Granada, up 9p at 870p, has already been in talks with Manchester United about developing its own television broadcasting division. Whi-

shes at 310p on October 3, which was subsequently delayed for a further week.

In the meantime, the seller had hedged his position by taking out a deep-in-the-money option which was exercised on the same day as the underlying sale was declared.

This was reported to the market and immediately prompted market-makers to

Frost Group, the petrol retailer, rose 4p to 134p after a buy recommendation from Credit Lyonnais Laing, which says that 1997 will be a record year for the group. The group has survived Esso's Price Watch campaign and volumes are now being rebuilt on margins that have already returned to former levels.

bread shed 5p at 694p. United News & Media, 1p lighter at 662.1p, saw its name linked to Blechein, 1p dearer at 484p, and HTV, up 1p at 376.1p. It offered any interest in making an offer for the club.

Shares of Matthew Clark, the troubled drinks group, plunged to a five-year low, touching 267.1p before rallying to a net 4p lower on the day at 309.1p. It followed a selling order for 1.95 million

shares at 310p on October 3, which was subsequently delayed for a further week.

Only last month, Clark saw its share price plunge from the 670p level after issuing a warning that profits would be hit by increased competition from "acops". By the close, fewer than a million shares had traded.

Kingfisher finished 5p higher at 648p in spite of County NatWest, the broker, urging clients to switch into Daxons 23p stronger at 567p.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt slipped a tick to 1110p as a total of 98,000 contracts were completed.

Back in the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost a tick at 1101<sup>12</sup> while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a couple of ticks easier at 1104<sup>11</sup>.

□ **NEW YORK:** Reassuring inflation news gave Wall Street a boost, which lifted the Dow Jones industrial average 41.37 points at midday to 5,963.04.

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□ **FTSE 100:** The FTSE 100 index rose 13.4 to 4,028.1 on the back of a strong opening rise on Wall Street.

□ **FTSE 250:** The FTSE 250 index rose 1.3 to 3,000.1.

□ **Three Month Sterling:** The three month sterling rate rose 0.001 to 12.0720.

□ **Three Month Euro Yen:** The three month euro yen rate rose 0.001 to 1.2072.

□ **Three Month Euro DM:** The three month euro dm rate rose 0.001 to 1.2072.

□ **Three Month ECU:** The three month euro currency unit rate rose 0.001 to 1.2072.

□ **Three Month Swiss Franc:** The three month Swiss franc rate rose 0.001 to 1.2072.

□ **Three Month Italian Govt Bond:** The three month Italian government bond rate rose 0.001 to 1.2072.

□ **Three Month German Govt Bond:** The three month German government bond rate rose 0.001 to 1.2072.

□ **Three Month French Govt Bond:** The three month French government bond rate rose 0.001 to 1.2072.

□ **Three Month UK Govt Bond:** The three month UK government bond rate rose 0.001 to 1.2072.

□ **Three Month US Govt Bond:** The three month US government bond rate rose 0.001 to 1.2072.

□ **Three Month Japanese Govt Bond:** The three month Japanese government bond rate rose 0.001 to 1.2072.

□ **Three Month Canadian Govt Bond:** The three month Canadian government bond rate rose 0.001 to 1.2072.

□ **Three Month Australian Govt Bond:** The three month Australian government bond rate rose 0.001 to 1.2072.

□ **Three Month New Zealand Govt Bond:** The three month New Zealand government bond rate rose 0.001 to 1.2072.

□ **Three Month South African Govt Bond:** The three month South African government bond rate rose 0.001 to 1.2072.

□ **Three Month Norwegian Govt Bond:** The three month Norwegian government bond rate rose 0.001 to 1.2072.

□ **Three Month Danish Govt Bond:** The three month Danish government bond rate rose 0.001 to 1.2072.

□ **Three Month Swedish Govt Bond:** The three month Swedish government bond rate rose 0.001 to 1.2072.

□ **Three Month Greek Govt Bond:** The three month Greek government bond rate rose 0.001 to 1.2072.

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□ **Three Month Norwegian Gov**

THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 1996

## CARING COVER 33

Insurance can ease burden of illness

# Sweeteners can leave a bitter taste

Marianne Curphey asks who really reaps the benefits from shareholder perks

**T**here are 10,000 people in Britain who can cross the Channel any time they like, as often as they like, completely free of charge. Indirectly, though, they have paid a high price for the privilege.

These people are Eurotunnel's shareholders. Most of them have relatively small holdings, and if they bought their shares at launch in 1987 and are still holding them, they will have seen the value fall by around 70 per cent.

To make their holding worthwhile they would have needed to make 50 return trips on Eurotunnel in the past two years. By any standards that is a lot of travelling. About 140,000 more shareholders have limited travel concessions.

This week a proposed £4.7 billion agreement to rebuild Eurotunnel's finances was put forward by the company's management.

Shareholders have yet to vote on it, but they will be unlikely to enjoy any dividends until 2005 or 2006. Shares were suspended at 113½p at the end of September and after trading resumed on Tuesday they fell to 93p. They are now trading at around 98p.

Some in the City are warning that further restructuring may be necessary in the future.

According to Justin Urquhart Stewart of Barclays

Stockbrokers, this demonstrates why, with a few exceptions, no one should buy shares just for the perks. "If you live within ten miles of Dover and commute to Calais on private business, or your family lives there, it might be worthwhile," he says. "Otherwise, perks are the icing on the cake."

Anyone who bought more than 1,500 Eurotunnel shares during the first issue in 1987 or the second issue in 1990 – but not the rights issue of 1994 – would have been rewarded with the option of unlimited travel on Eurotunnel. The travel perks last for as long as Eurotunnel is the operator for the Channel Tunnel. At present, concession runs until 2022. The vast majority of Eurotunnel's 150,000 British and 600,000 French investors have travel perks.

Mr Urquhart Stewart believes that more and more companies will offer shareholder perks in the future to gain their loyalty and to encourage them to spend more on their products.

He says: "When Somerfield planned its flotation this summer it cleverly put application forms for shares near the checkouts in its supermarkets.

If people buy shares, they are less likely to go elsewhere for their groceries because they have a personal interest in the

fortunes of the company." He predicts that British Airways will offer better discounts and travel concessions to its shareholders to persuade them to travel by BA.

"In the past, companies have used perks as a sweetener to keep shareholders quiet. Over the next few years they will be developed as strategic marketing tools to create a club atmosphere and encourage long-term shareholding," he says. "For example, Whitbread might introduce a card giving shareholders discounts right across its range of leisure facilities."

**D**espite the potential marketing benefits, some companies refuse to grant perks to anyone who is not on the shareholder register.

This means that anyone who has a nominee account through a broker is banned from receiving these benefits, even if the broker is prepared to collect them on his or her behalf.

The companies involved are: Argos, Barret Developments, BHP Billiton, Burton, Eurotunnel, General Accident, Gieves Group, Hollas Group, Lex Service, Lookers, Next, P&O, Psion, Sears and Toye & Co.



Eurotunnel shareholders needed to make 50 return trips in the past two years to make their holding worthwhile

## Bad business for annuities

Caroline Merrell explains why

**P**oorer pensions for those retiring in the final months of this year will be the result of an increase in sales at life-insurance companies, where turnover has been boosted by soaring markets.

One of the industry's responses to this reversal in its fortunes has been to decrease the rates offered on retirement annuities – many have done as much annuity business as they would like already this year, and are no longer interested in offering the most competitive rates.

Annuity rates have fallen about 2.5 per cent since the beginning of September. Anyone with a personal pension must, by law, use 75 per cent of the proceeds to buy an annuity from which their pension will

be paid. Billy Burrows, director of Annuity Direct, a financial adviser specialising in annuities, said: "These falls have been expected for some time – rates have been protected by companies competing for business over the summer period."

Annuities are one of the most overlooked areas of pension planning. It is no good building up a healthy retirement fund, only to choose an annuity which pays a low level of income. All those retiring with any sort of pension fund, whether a pool of money generated through an additional voluntary contribution plan, a personal pension plan

or the precursor to a personal pension, an S226 plan, can opt for an annuity from any company. Instead, most choose to take out the product offered by the company they have their pension with. As the table on page 28 shows, choosing a good annuity over a bad one can make a difference of thousands of pounds.

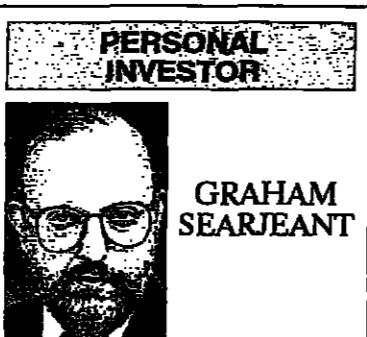
To make matters more confusing, three distinct types of annuity are now available. The first is a conventional annuity. Your accumulated pension fund is exchanged for a guaranteed level of income with income set when the annuity is purchased. If the pensioner dies, the pension

is paid. The second is a phased retirement annuity, which divides an individual's pension fund into segments. These are encashed at different times up to age 75. The encashed segments comprise tax-free cash and money to purchase an annuity.

Phased retirement will give the pensioner some protection against inflation as he or she is

Continued on page 28, col 6

## Tax breaks yes, abuses no



**G**etter late than never. This week Kenneth Clarke finally closed the gross-dividend loophole. Had he followed the advice whispered in this column last November, he would have ended the worst abuse – the use of special dividends in takeovers – in his 1995 Budget. Since then, about £1.7 billion more has been paid out, plus £3 billion in selective share buybacks, charging taxpayers about £1 billion.

That cash was no boon to private investors and was giving pension funds a bad name. City brains devised a way to make taxpayers fund part of the cost of takeover bids. But this gave more money to pension funds than to others.

Many bids included a special dividend from the target company straight after it was taken over. Pension funds and charities, which are not liable to tax on dividends, could claim £1 from the Revenue for every £4 of "dividend". So could individuals with too little income to pay tax, but they would probably not have to pay tax on capital gains. Some higher-rate taxpayers would have to pay extra on the dividend but set capital gains against their tax allowance.

Takeover bids always affect people differently according to their tax status. But dividend-bolstered bids were deliberately engineered – and advertised – to give more to gross funds than other shareholders. Adding to the insult, these dividends, featured in bids for companies with lots of small shareholders, such as TSB and electricity distributors, were treated

By design, investors were treated differently. The first rule of the City Takeover Code says that they must be

special dividend that goes hand in hand with a cut in nominal capital. Such consolidations aim to keep earnings per share up, kidding investors that they can eat a slice of cake and leave it intact.

Finance directors claim that small investors will not understand or forgive sharp falls in earnings the year after loads of cash is paid out. That may be true. They could try offering the Revenue some other form of words that leaves them free to play around with their capital while stopping companies from diverting cash to gross funds that can claim money from taxpayers.

Experience suggests, however, that the fund managers who have driven companies to exploit these loopholes are far more obsessed with smooth growth of reported earnings. Private investors know the world is not like that. The gross dividend scandal shows how blinkered City thinking, in the long run, can hurt the very people it aims to help.

The change, which stops gross funds claiming dividend tax back, should not affect genuine special dividends paid to all. These are healthy, for instance when a company sells part of its business and does not want to invest in something it knows little about just for the sake of it. These payouts may be less appealing. To cover schemes such as the one devised for Reuters, the ruling also hits any

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**Innovation, IN THE STYLE OF  
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Question of Money: Fiona Bawdon on a fresh tack on legal action

# New brand of justice

**Q** How do "no win, no fee" arrangements work?

**A** The proper term for them is "conditional fees". To call them "no win, no fee" is somewhat misleading as you may still end up having to pay a big legal bill if you lose. In this country the loser has to pay the winning side's legal costs, which may be substantial. With a conditional fee arrangement your own solicitor will waive his costs if you lose but unless it is used in conjunction with after-the-event insurance (see below) you would still have to pay the other side's solicitors bill. If you win, you will have to pay your solicitor a success fee which can be up to double his normal fee. The level of success fee should reflect the level of risk involved. For example, the tobacco litigation will be breaking new legal ground and is therefore extremely speculative. The solicitors in this case are charging the maximum 100 per cent success fee. With smaller, more certain cases, a lower success fee would probably be appropriate. Whatever level of success fee is agreed, don't sign a conditional fee agreement unless your solicitor imposes a cap on the level of damages that can be eaten up in his fees. The Law Society recommends one of 25 per cent.

**Q** When can conditional fees be used?

**A** At the moment, conditional fees are only



Marlboro, the US tobacco giant, is being sued by the widow of one of its models. She claims its cigarettes gave him cancer

allowed for personal injury, insolvency, and human rights cases. It is likely, however, that they will be extended to other types of civil litigation.

**Q** What is "after the event" insurance?

**A** "After the event" insurance protects a losing party from having to pay the other side's legal bills. It is designed specifically to be used in conjunction with conditional fees. The Law Society has approved a scheme called "accident line protects" which is available only through specialised personal injury firms. ALP costs

**T**he news that a group of 40 lung cancer victims is to sue two leading tobacco companies on a "no win, no fee" basis has reawakened interest in this relatively new approach to funding legal action.

Conditional fees, as they are called, were introduced in July 1995. So far more than 12,000 people have signed up. Most will be straightforward personal injury cases – people suing for work injuries or in a road accident.

Conditional fees are increasingly being seen as an alternative to legal aid. The ex-smokers turned to this method of funding after legal aid was withdrawn because the board that administers legal aid didn't think they would win. The approach is often used by people whose income is too high to qualify for legal aid but too low to fund a case themselves. Only around 50 per cent

cases – where somebody has been injured during the course of medical treatment – which are notoriously expensive and difficult to bring, is expected to be launched soon.

**Q** How do conditional fees differ from US-style contingency fees?

**A** In the US, law firms can charge a percentage of the successful client's eventual damage, typically around 30 per cent. This means that firms can sometimes end up with millions and millions of dollars in big cases. In this country the amount of damages won has no bearing on how much the solicitor gets. Instead his success fee is linked to his normal charging levels, plus an uplift for having run the risk of not getting paid at all.

The other big difference is that in the US there is no loser pays rule. Each side pays its own costs regardless of the outcome of the case – so there is no need for "after the event" insurance.

enough to chase cancer victims for costs. (The companies may well, however, try to get the case thrown out altogether because of their opponents' lack of funds). However, some observers predict that it is only a matter of time before insurance cover becomes available for this kind of ground-breaking case. Although the "after the event" market is only a year old, there have already been significant developments. Cover for medical negligence

## Bad business for annuities

### RATES AS OF OCTOBER 4, 1996

Single Life Guarantee  
5 monthly in advance  
Level £50,000

COMPANY	RATE
1 Sun Life of Canada	£5,580.85
2 Equitable Life	£5,573.80
3 General	£4,450.00
4 Stalwart Assurance	£5,540.00
5 Canada Life	£5,533.80

### Joint Life 50% Guarantee 5 monthly in advance Level £50,000

COMPANY	RATE
1 Britannia Life	£4,782.20
2 Sun Alliance	£4,670.40
3 Scottish Equitable	£4,614.60
4 Scottish Equitable	£4,610.40
5 Scottish Mutual	£4,608.55

### RATES AS OF AUGUST 30, 1996

Single Life Guarantee  
5 monthly in advance  
Level £50,000

COMPANY	RATE
1 Prudential	£5,595.40
2 Sun Life of Canada	£5,580.35
3 General	£5,529.05
4 Norwich Union	£5,504.80
5 Standard Life	£5,504.00

### Joint Life 50% Guarantee 5 monthly in advance Level £50,000

COMPANY	RATE
1 Sun Alliance	£4,788.40
2 Britannia Life	£4,670.40
3 Scottish Equitable	£4,614.60
4 Scottish Equitable	£4,610.40
5 Scottish Mutual	£4,608.55

Continued from page 27  
not using the entire fund to purchase a pension at a single moment in time. The annuity rates will vary according to prevailing interest rates. The third type is the drawdown annuity where the pension-fund money is invested until a proportion

needed to buy a guaranteed income. The theory is that you can benefit from any further growth in the pension fund, and can also choose to encash more when rates are more advantageous. But, leaving your pension fund money invested in the stock market is a risk.



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On the ball: Rory Underwood, England rugby international, helps Virgin Direct demonstrate the need for insurance

## Genetics cast a shadow

Caroline Merrell on life  
insurance risk factors

can legislate to prevent the companies having any access at all to the results.

Last year, the select committee on science and technology debated the use of genetic testing. The committee initially wanted life insurance companies not to have any access to genetic information. However, it eventually accepted the view that companies should be protected against people who find they have high-risk genes, then over-insure themselves but withhold the genetic information from the life insurer.

Paul Cooper, Mercantile & General Reinsurance chief underwriter, said: "It should not be seen as different from any other sort of information. It will just identify who is more at risk."

The Association of British Insurers is lobbying for accessibility to genetic information, but it insists that the life companies have no plans to ask potential policy holders to take genetic tests before they take out a policy.

The Genetic Interest Group, an umbrella organisation representing those with genetic disorders, is willing to concede that companies should have access to information, but believes policy holders should be given detailed reasons why they face loaded premiums and should be able to appeal.

John Gillott, policy officer, said: "Insurance companies will behave like insurance companies. They are commercial organisations, and do not want any regulation of their accessibility to information."

Term Direct is on 0171 588 9797.

month, the Association of British Insurers will produce guidelines about how genetic information should be used.

Standard Life, the UK's biggest insurer, has already pre-empted publication of the guidelines by stating that it will not force people to disclose the results of genetic tests when taking out term assurance to cover a mortgage.

Testing to pinpoint the likelihood of getting certain diseases such as breast cancer or heart disease is still in its infancy as a diagnostic tool. However, its usefulness in underwriting in life insurance cannot be ignored, especially as competition between companies over rates begins to increase. Independent financial advisers claim that rates are already beginning to fall because of the arrival of direct insurers such as Direct Line and Virgin Direct.

A tool which could definitely knock out high-risk lives could be even more useful for insurers in the rates war. Next

offered by the top and bottom-performing companies.

According to the financial adviser, Term Direct, the lowest term insurance premiums for a 32-year-old non-smoking male requiring £100,000 of cover were offered by Virgin Direct, Legal & General, Norwich Union, Allied Dunbar and Scottish Mutual. Rates were between £15.67 and £17.15. The most expensive companies were Clerical Medical, Scottish Amicable, Lloyds Bank, Friends Provident and Swiss Life. Rates at this end of the spectrum were between £24.32 and £32.

Others believe that testing could eventually lead to sections of the population becoming uninsurable.

The Government, geneticists and the medical lobby are trying to hammer out a way of treating information before genetic testing becomes more prevalent for controlling certain disorders. If the industry does not create a suitable system, then the Government

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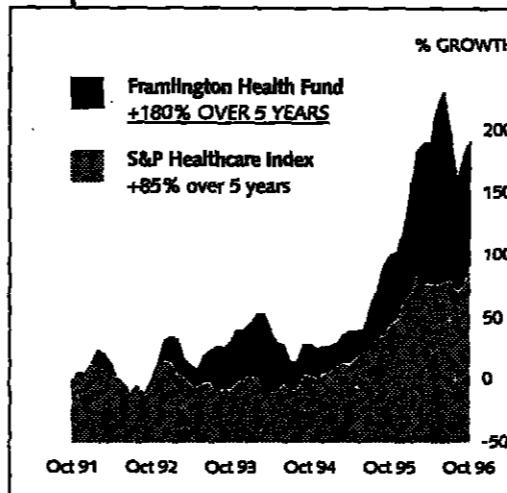
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# Paragon of virtue suffers blind spot



## FINANCIAL FITNESS TEST

**Fiona Bawdon** on the need for careful planning to ensure family security

AT FIRST glance, sending 35-year-old Steve Halstead for a Weekend Money makeover is a bit like suggesting Coco Chanel might have needed the services of an image consultant.

Mr Halstead is in an enviable financial situation, achieved largely through his own financial acumen and planning. He has a well-paid job as a manager with a major UK company, where he has worked for the last ten years. His total salary package, which includes various bonuses and generous perks, comes to more than £30,000. Out of this he manages to save at least

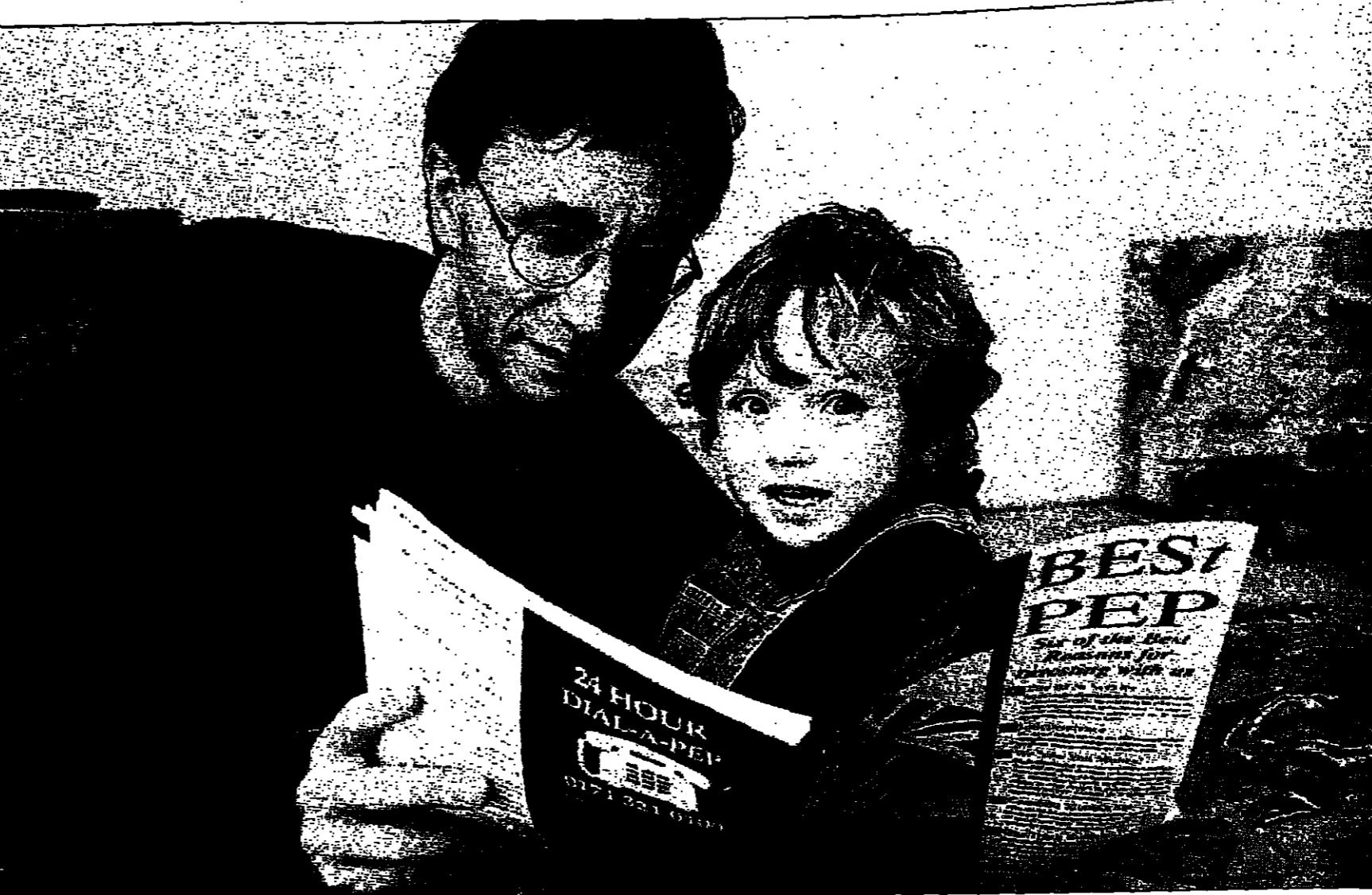
£5,000 a year ("I'm too busy working to spend any money"). He holds around £10,000 worth of shares in the company for which he works — acquired at preferential rates over the years — and also has substantial savings.

Mr Halstead and his partner, a freelance writer, have an £80,000 mortgage on a house worth nearly double that amount. Later this year, when the mortgage reverts from a fixed rate to a variable rate, he intends to use some of his savings to reduce the loan by about half. He has no overdraft and no credit card debts.

scrutiny. Mr Bolland calculated that the endowment, savings and company benefit would provide a total of a little more than £200,000. Once the £80,000 mortgage was paid off, this would leave £145,000. "That sort of money invested would generate £5,500 to £6,000 a year gross," said Mr Bolland. "In a true widows and orphans situation you wouldn't normally try to generate a return of more than 5 to 6 per cent because the money has to be protected."

Mr Bolland added that, because the couple are not married, Mr Halstead's partner might not qualify for a state widow's pension. Although the DSS can use its discretion, there is no guarantee she would receive anything. "If she won't definitely get it, you have to plan on the basis that she wouldn't," says Mr Bolland.

Would Mr Halstead be happy about leaving his young family with an income of around only £6,000 a year? If not, life insurance should be a priority. The cheapest option would be a ten-year convertible term policy. Around £20,000 worth of cover — which would pay out on



Pep talk: Steve Halstead enlists the help of his three-year-old son, Joe, as he looks over the investment options available to make sure of his family's long-term financial wellbeing

the death of Mr Halstead or his partner — would cost less than £50 a month. Mr Halstead's situation highlights the nebulous legal status of couples who are not married. While there is nothing he and his partner can do about the idiosyncrasies of the DSS, they have protected themselves to a large extent by having wills that leave everything to each other.

Mr Bolland said that the foresight to

amount of time they automatically acquire the same rights as married couples — they don't. Without a will, Mr Halstead's partner would have no automatic claim on his estate, regardless of the length of time they had lived together or the number of their children.

Falling under a bus is not, however, the only eventuality which Mr Halstead needs to plan against. The sector in which he

you earn schemes — which would cost several hundred pounds a month to pay for privately.

Mr Halstead does not know what he might want to do next if he left his company. He might work for another employer or possibly set up on his own. But what he does know is that he wants to organise his finances now to ensure that all his options are open in the future.

According to Mr Bolland, what he needs is a "cash cushion". Going ahead as planned and paying off around half the mortgage would go a long way to achieving this, he says. "The way house prices are going, he would be building up quite a lot of equity which he could borrow against if he wanted to set up his own business. It would reduce monthly outgoings, which could be particularly useful around the time of the birth when his partner may not be earning very much. And he could use the surplus money to start building up savings again."

The other area which Mr Halstead wanted advice about was his pension provision. Should he be paying additional

voluntary contributions (AVCs), rather than relying solely on his company's final salary scheme? Or was he right to keep £20,000 — into Peps?

Mr Bolland said that Mr Halstead's current strategy is basically sound, although when finances allow he should think about beefing up his overall pension provision. "It can be better to take a twin-track approach to retirement planning — to have two pots both performing in different ways. I'm not one of these people who says you've always got to use all your pension entitlement."

The other benefit of Peps over AVCs — even free-standing AVCs — is that they are far more flexible. With the current wave of redundancies in Mr Halstead's industry, and the possibility that he might start his own business, this flexibility could be a real advantage. Mr Bolland says: "I would have said you should look at an AVC if you had told me that until you retire or drop you were going to be a company man."

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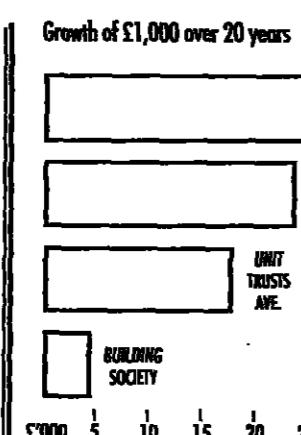
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Insurance can ease financial burden of illness, says Sarah Jones

## Caring for women with cancer



Eva Herzigova is campaigning for breast cancer awareness

The sight of pink ribbons on lapels means that it's breast cancer awareness month again, the start of the annual campaign for early detection of the disease which this week will kill 300 women. As many as 26,000 women each year discover that they have the disease — and 15,000 of them die.

The campaign, which this year includes Eva Herzigova, the former Wonderbra model, as one of its supporters, it comes at a time when insurers are looking to sell ever more critical illness plans.

There are a few insurance policies which specifically cover breast cancer. Ladyshield from Stuart Harvey insurance brokers pays £10,000 on diagnosis of breast or cervical cancer. There is a further £5,000 if a mastectomy is required, and £5,000 if the insured dies within a year of diagnosis. Premiums are low, ranging from £26 a year for a 30-year-old, to a maximum of £62 a year if you are over 55.

However, the policy excludes some of the most obvious candidates — women who have had two or more members of their immediate family suffer from breast or cervical cancer.

Pinnacle Insurance's Viva policy pays £10,000 on diagnosis of breast or cervical cancer, with a further £6,000 spread over 12 months. Premiums range from £54 a year to £216 a year depending on age. Eligibility may be affected by a family history of breast cancer. LadyPlan, underwritten by Lloyd's of

### HEALTH INSURANCE

London, offers two levels of benefit. The standard cover pays out £15,000, with a further £12,000 spread over 12 months. Premiums are from £129 a year to £372 a year. There is an additional premium for women with a family history of breast and cervical cancer. The additional premium is £144 if the relation is mother or sister, and £72 if it is an aunt or grandmother.

"Breast cancer-only policies are expensive for what they are," says Yvonne Rose of Diane Saunders, the independent financial adviser. "You would be better off paying slightly more and getting a better product; that is one that covers you for more illnesses."

Ms Rose advises a two-pronged attack in coping with serious illness: permanent health insurance (PHI) to cover loss of earnings if you need to take time off work, and critical illness insurance to cover mortgage payments, changes to accommodation or childcare costs.

Women with a family history of breast cancer may have some difficulty getting general critical illness cover. At Zurich Life, for example, your eligibility is not affected if your mother, sister or grandmother had breast cancer after the age of 50. But if two or more members of your family suffered under the age of 50, there will be a premium loading of 50 per cent. Zurich's Lifestyle Security Plan pays out £25,000 on diagnosis and, for a 35-year-old non-smoker, costs £15 a year.

## Too much insurance can damage your wealth

Helen Pridham steers you past the pitfalls of having a policy too many

If you have taken out insurance to provide an income during a period of ill-health that stops you working, the last thing you want is your claim to be turned down, or cut back. But this can arise if you are held to be "overinsured" — where the benefits payable under your policy turn out to be higher than the maximum allowable percentage of your income when you come to claim.

Insurers impose this restriction to ensure that claimants still have an incentive to return to work when they recover. The issue was highlighted by the recent Office of Fair Trading report into health insurance.

If you are held to be overinsured, your benefit will be cut, which means a proportion of your premiums will have been wasted. You will have paid for benefits you cannot receive. The problem is widespread. It has been re-

ported that 30 to 40 per cent of PHI claimants have their benefits reduced to some degree for this reason.

Nowadays companies typically limit benefits to a maximum of 50 to 65 per cent of your pre-disability income, less other benefits available from employers or the state. Previously the limit was 75 per cent but after PHI benefits were made tax free in April, it was reduced. It means, for example, that if your income is currently £20,000, after the deduction of the annual single person's state incapacity benefit of around £3,000, the maximum amount of income you could insure would be 65 per cent of £17,000, that is £11,050. If your income were £18,000,

### MAIN CAUSES OF PHI CLAIMS

	Male %	Female %
Musculo-skeletal (back pain, etc.)	44.0	37.0
Mental illness (including Chronic Fatigue Syndrome)	18.0	32.5
Heart Disease and Stroke	11.5	3.5
Cancer	7.5	8.5
Neurological and Sense Organs	5.0	5.0
Other	14.0	13.5

Source: Swiss Re

your maximum benefit would reduce to £9,750.

Over-insurance can be due to several factors including over-enthusiastic salesmen, and escalating benefits, which rise faster than the policyholder's own income. However, Kevin Pearce of PHI insurer, Allied Dunbar, says: "The main problems tend to arise with the self-employed. Their earnings can fluctuate and there can also be confusion over what counts as income, their gross profits or their declared income to the taxman." The latter, which is what we have to go on, can be considerably lower than the former. Problems usually only come to light when a claim is made because it is normally only then that evidence of income must be provided.

Swiss Life is one of the few companies that asks for evidence upfront. However, after criticism in the OFT report, more insurers are considering ways of tackling over-insurance and companies like Allied Dunbar are starting to warn policyholders each year when they renew their insurance that they should review their benefits and reduce them if necessary.

Some PHI claimants do not even get a reduced benefit. It is difficult to get hold of the exact number of claims that are turned down. But Karen

### If you are held to be overinsured your benefit will be cut

ability as your total inability to follow your own occupation, others define it as your inability to follow your own occupation or "any reasonably suitable occupation".

Disputes often arise about whether a condition renders someone "totally unable" to do a job or not. Unless a condition is very serious, an insurer may argue that the policyholder can still perform certain aspects of their job. According to Ms Lloyd: "Much will depend on how fundamental to your job is the activity or activities which you no longer perform."

However, the OFT was suf-

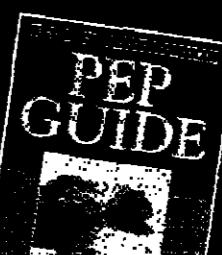
ficiently concerned about the lack of clarity that it called upon insurers to produce a standard definition of "total disability" and the Association of British Insurers (ABI) is currently working on this.

Even if your insurer accepts your claim initially, disputes may arise later. PHI is designed to tide you over until you get better and can start working again. If you do not recover benefits will continue until retirement, but this situation is the exception rather than the rule. At Allied Dunbar, Kevin Pearce says benefits are paid for an average of 18 months.

If you show signs of recovery, insurers will encourage you to restart work on a part-time basis initially. They will normally top up your income with a "rehabilitation" benefit until you are fit to resume full duties or for, say, 12 months. If you are not able to go back to your old occupation but take a lower paid job instead, a "proportionate" benefit may be paid indefinitely to reduce the gap in earnings between your old and new job.

Mr Pearce says: "Problems arise when people partially recover or become fit again but

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Noel Fung and Caroline Merrell on faith in an Asian boom

# Full of Eastern promise

In the belief that the Asian markets are about to boom, Portfolio Fund Management is launching an Asian fund that will invest in what it claims are the best managed unit trusts in the Far East.

The Portfolio Asia Fund will be managed by Richard Timberlake, who is also chairman of Fund Research, the unit trust performance analysis business. The fund will invest in 25 funds from 15 of the leading Far Eastern fund managers. Mr Timberlake said: "The standard of fund management in the Far East is very good. There are about 30 of the 83 fund management groups we would consider. We choose 15 of them."

The fund's initial portfolio will include three funds from Fidelity, three from Schroder, four from HSBC and five from Invesco. The rest will be

### Biggest portion of fund will be invested on Hong Kong market

divided among other funds from investment houses such as Perpetual, GT Templeton and Morgan Grenfell. Jardine Fleming, the well known Asian investment house, which would usually have figured among the managers, has been excluded. Jardine Fleming recently received a £700,000 fine from the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), the fund managers' watchdog.

Geographically, by far the biggest portion of the fund will be invested in companies quoted on the Hong Kong market. Mr Timberlake said: "This is really a play on China. Direct investment in China is still relatively underdeveloped." The Chinese market rose around 45 per cent during the first nine months of this year, while Hong Kong rose 10 per cent over the same period. Some 5 per cent or more of



Tide is turning: Portfolio Fund Management is hoping to catch some of the recovery on the Thailand stock market

the fund will be in each of the markets of Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan and Korea. Mr Timberlake said: "Thailand and Korea have been at the bottom over the last two years; we are trying to catch some of the recovery."

Portfolio believes that Asian markets have been depressed compared with markets in the UK, US and Europe. It thinks that growth, backed by strong economic fundamentals, will soon be renewed.

Mr Timberlake has spent the last few months interviewing 44 Far Eastern fund managers to find out which ones to use. He said: "I have done a huge amount of research in picking the best funds."

Analysts claim that stock in Asian markets is now much cheaper than it was two years ago. But they point out that the Asian economies are very vulnerable to changes in US interest rates, and countries

such as Thailand and Korea are subject to political risk.

Ian Millward of Chase de Vere, the financial advisers, was also sceptical. He commented: "The fund will give investors a huge spread of investments. However, it may be a case of spreading the risk to ridiculous proportions. There is also going to be an element of double charging. Will the performance of the fund outweigh all the extra charges?"

The minimum investment in the Asian fund is £1,000. There will be discounts of up to 3 per cent in the initial offer. A 1 per cent discount will apply to investments between £3,000 and £9,999, a 2 per cent discount will apply for investments between £10,000 and £24,999, and a 3 per cent discount will apply for investments of more than £25,000. The initial charge is 6 per cent and the annual charge is 1.5 per cent.

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## SOCIETY WATCH



ing Society (N&P) by Abbey National.

Ordinarily, the rules state, investors can only subscribe to a Pep by paying cash to a plan manager who then invests it in equities. However, there are two exceptions. Investors can use shares as part of their Pep subscription as they have been obtained in public offers or in the transfer of the whole of the business of a building society to a successor company. This was the case in the takeover of the N&P.

When more than 600,000

N&P members received an average of £1,400 of Abbey National shares in August free, the Pep Managers Association (Pepma) asked the Revenue if investors could transfer an infinite number of these shares to their Peps because they had not paid for them. Amazingly, the Revenue said yes.

Unfortunately for millions of life policyholders, demutualised life company shares are not currently eligible under the Pep rules. Norwich Union, which announced its plans last week, is lobbying for a change.

\* In the chart on page 9 of this week's guide to Personal Equity Plans the column headings from column seven should read as follows: six months, one year, two years, three years, five years, ten years.

In the table at the bottom of page 16, the entry for the Virgin Pep should read All Share Tracker.



Mike Blackburn of the Halifax, which is becoming a bank

An Inland Revenue spokesman said: "If the shares cost you nothing, they do not count against the subscription limit. If you are lucky enough to have four building societies which convert in the same tax year, then you can put all these shares into a Pep."

Alternatively, the building society member could house the shares in a single-company Pep, where the annual limit is £3,000, although any additional investments would have to be in the converted building society's shares.

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Choosing the right mix of alco-stocks is important, says Matthew Wall

# Sober judgment required to invest in drinks sector



## SECTOR IN FOCUS

With the "feel-good" factor finally slinking back to the high street, champagne sales now emulating the heady days of the Eighties, and leisure spending creeping upwards, a select cocktail of drinks industry stocks should put some fizz into investors' portfolios.

The drinks sector includes large spirits and wine producers such as Guinness, Allied Domecq and Grand Metropolitan, and small pub retailers such as Surrey Free Inns, listed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

But beware: indiscriminate mixing of drinks stocks can give the unwary a hangover. Investors in Matthew Clark, the cider-maker, know only too well how quickly a bubbly stock can turn flat. After a profits warning last month, Clark's share price halved and analysts slashed £20 million from profits forecasts.

Peter Aikens, Clark's chief executive, blames the catastrophic drop in sales of Diamond White and K, its premium bottled cider brands, on the explosive growth of alcoholic fruit-flavoured drinks, or "alcopops".

But institutions are furious because Aikens assured them that all was well just days before the profits warning. And its rival cider-maker, HP Bulmer, seems to have weathered the alcopops storm, leav-



Cheers all round: the return of better times in the drinks industry makes it a tempting investment prospect

ing a question mark over Clark's management.

The pub-retailing sector has rocketed after the Government's Beer Orders in 1991 attempted to lessen the ties between brewing and pub retailing. J. D. Wetherspoon, the managed pub company, has blazed a trail. Its share price of around £11.50 is nearly double its level of a year ago. The Maggs Pub Company also cashed in when Greene King snapped it up for £80 million earlier this year.

The alcopops market has grown from nothing to a £300 million turnover industry in less than two years, with two brands, Hooper's Hooch, made by Bass, and Two Dogs, made by Merrydown, leading

the field. There are now more than 100 brands. But if investors think alcopop makers are good for a punt, they should bear in mind that the overall drinks market is static, if not in decline.

Surveying the big players, Alex Oldroyd, leisure analyst at Morgan Stanley, believes the market is undergoing

and concentrating on its existing portfolio of brands.

Although the spirits market is declining in mature Western markets, Oldroyd believes those companies which can get the most value out of their brands, rather than the most volume, could still make a killing. And there are plenty of opportunities in the emerging economies, such as India, China and Malaysia.

The worldwide decline in spirits has led to speculation that mergers among the big players are inevitable. Indeed Guinness has carried out a feasibility study on a takeover of GrandMet, which most analysts have dismissed as highly unlikely.

On a smaller scale, Highland Distillers, owner of Famous Grouse, and its partner Suntory, the Japanese spirits giant, snapped up Macallan-Glenlivet for £88 million.

Industry experts are predicting further consolidation in the sector, with only two other whisky companies, Glenmorangie and Burn Stewart, listed on the stock market.

Glenmorangie is family controlled but has made no secret of its wish to go more public. Canny investors could do worse than target these two and Highland itself, as potential takeover targets.

## Indiscriminate mixing can give unwary investors a hangover

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Adam Jones on the options at Lloyd's as profits return

# Names in the money and back in the game

The nail-biting finale to the Lloyd's of London recovery has obscured one blunt fact. People have made money from the insurance market this year and now they have to decide what to do with it.

It is hard to look beyond the £8 billion losses that Lloyd's made between 1987 and 1992, but the three subsequent years were lucrative. The profit for 1993, shared out only this year since Lloyd's works three years in arrears, was a record £1 billion. Profits for 1994 and 1995 should be £1 billion and £880 million. As a result, about 12,000 names — the people who underwrite the insurance market's deals — will receive cheques rather than bills as part of the reconstruction package.

For thousands, the money will not nearly cover losses — but a cheque is still a cheque. Some recipients, like the Earl of Mountcharles, can now revive long-delayed projects. The Irish aristocrat is one of the names who paid all his debts to Lloyd's and continued underwriting after 1992. In his final statement he can expect £44,000 — his share of 1993's excellent results minus his final payments for Lloyd's reconstruction. The figure is much less important than the knowledge that he will

## People will receive cheques, not bills

be getting no more bills for the period up to 1993. It means he can free capital set aside against possible future cash calls and plan the restoration of the family seat.

Slane Castle, in Co Meath, burned down in 1991 and because it was uninsured, and because of crippling Lloyd's losses, reconstruction was not possible. A series of rock concerts, featuring the likes of REM and Guns 'N' Roses could only fund day-to-day maintenance.

Other names benefiting from the 1993 payout will have to consider the ways of minimising the tax they pay. It's not an issue if a name's historic losses continue to be greater than the income earned since the bad underwriting years began — many will be in this position and they won't have to pay tax. But those names who managed to keep another significant income source may have to give the Inland Revenue a cut of the 1993 payment.

One way of reducing this tax burden is to put the money into a special reserve created by Lloyd's. A name can put half the underwriting profits into this reserve. Income tax on the gains is thereby deferred until the name resigns and the money is withdrawn, when it is charged at the



Lord Mountcharles' settlement means he can revive long-delayed projects

prevailing rate. But if the name makes underwriting losses in the meantime, the money in the reserve pays the deficit — the original income tax is never paid. The disadvantage of this arrangement is common to all tax-deferral schemes: when the money is withdrawn, the prevailing rate of income tax may be greater.

Nor can the money in the special reserve be used as "funds at Lloyd's", the money each name has to lodge with the market as a symbol of willingness and ability to pay potentially larger losses. For names who don't want to continue underwriting at Lloyd's, the special reserve is no use because it doesn't allow them to pick up the profits and leave.

But there is another option. From the 1992-94 tax year — the most recent year for which Lloyd's has paid out — names have

been able to put profits into a personal pension. Depending on their age, between 17.5 per cent and 40 per cent of underwriting income can be put into a scheme as a one-off premium offering tax relief up to 40 per cent. The underlying investment accumulates free of income tax. As with all personal pensions, the income eventually drawn will be taxed, but a quarter can be withdrawn as a tax-free lump sum.

One advantage is that the money earned by funds deposited at Lloyd's as a surety — the so-called "unearned income" achieved by normal lump-sum investment — can also be pensioned. The maximum amount of Lloyd's income that can be contributed for 1993-94 could be restrictive, though: between £13,125 and £30,000. But these allowances may increase for subsequent years.

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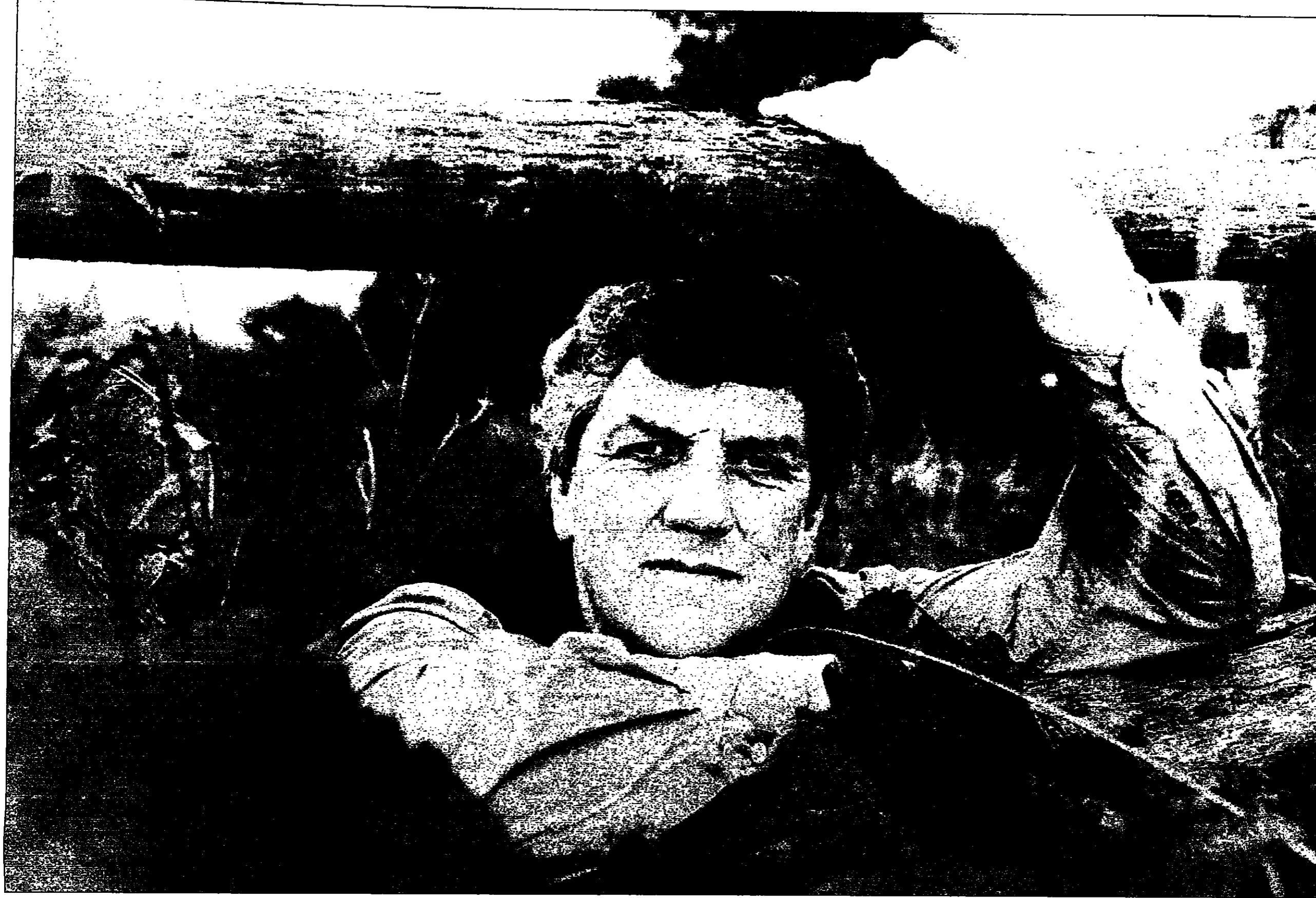
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## Paul Heiney launches THE TIMES Countryside Campaign

**O**f all the insults which could be hurled at a countryman, none was more crushing than that inflicted upon Vincent Vines by his fellow villagers at Hillesley in Gloucestershire. At last year's bonfire party, Mr Vines offered them all a glass of his special pea-pod wine. We do not know the precise details of how it was made, from which slopes the pea pods were picked, or whether the wine was manured in oak or an old Coke bottle. Having tasted home-brewed country wines myself, it is a safe bet that there was more of a bang in it than anything else at that bonfire party. But the villagers declined his offer and so Mr Vines drank the wine himself, alone, and apparently to excess.

This story would have ended with no more than a severe headache for Mr Vines had he not been so offended that he took an air rifle and started blasting off. The case came up last week and Mr Vines is now doing 200 hours' community service.

Without in any way endorsing the firing of pellets (try a pea-shooter next time, Mr Vines), I find it difficult not to have sympathy with the poor chap. Apparently, he had come to feel

like a stranger in the village he had lived in all his life; a lonely man hemmed in, he felt, by sophisticated newcomers to whom, I guess, pea-pod wine was like some alien juice from the jungle.

What this story so graphically describes is the increasingly large divide that exists in some rural areas brought about by the different needs and wishes of people born and bred in the country and those who move into it, enjoy its pleasures, but often fail to appreciate its many woes.

I was once the incomer, new to the rural life with my polished brogues and a fanciful flat cap. Now, airguns apart, I am on Mr Vines's side. With some hesitation — for there will be many who will want to disagree — I would like to declare that after a long and arduous apprenticeship I am a countryman at last.

It is possibly one of the great misunderstandings of our time that a working knowledge of toads, gnats, owls and fungi is all it takes to win your countryman's badge. But these, I have come to realise, are as irrelevant to a true understanding of rural Britain as is familiarity with jellied eels and the Lambeth Walk to a working knowledge of London. To under-

stand rural life you have to live it and breathe it, good weather and bad, in sickness and in health, and even drink the pea-pod wine. Do all that long enough and the door starts to open. It takes a long time and, at the grave risk of being marched out of the county for saying so, I feel I have now served my time.

It was my idea that we came to live in Suffolk 15 years ago. I found a tumble-down farmhouse with enough rising damp to float a ship, timbers on which woodworm had grown fat and doors that rattled as the winter winds whistled through the cracks created by the gnawing of vermin. Bliss.

**I**n the garden, I planted marrows (never eaten), earthen potatoes (riddled by worms) and tended cabbages (decimated by pests). But none of it mattered.

To my romantically befuddled mind, the very arrival of the first hungry caterpillar of the season

was some kind of welcome to the club. Now I could lean over the garden gate, like Mr McGregor, and moan about rabbits with the rest of the real country gardeners. This, you could say, is the First Age of Countryman: beguiled, besotted, and ignoring the cries of one's family who might add beleaguered to my list.

My next age — one modelled

loosely on the humble farmer

whose horse-drawn methods are

extinct and whose spirit has long

departed the land to the detriment

of the soil and livestock — has

been only too well documented in

this newspaper. For six years, we

— I say we because I always tell

I farmed surrogates for the readers

as much as for myself — ploughed, sowed, reaped and

mowed with our faithful cart-horses, trying to prove virtue in

techniques and attitudes that

modern farming has dismissed.

When I get my breath back, I may

come to some conclusion as to

how successful we were. But now

I have arrived at a defining

moment — the start of the Third Age. With a chance at last to look at the world around me, rather than be forever gazing down at the soil, I see that much of rural Britain does not make for a pretty sight.

I never thought I would ever hear these words on my lips, but I now accept that in the country might actually be a lousy place to live. It takes a true countryman to admit that.

Not lousy. I hasten to add, for larks, owls, bats and butterflies, who now have more than enough agencies, support groups and wildlife groups to need no further help. Or for me, for that matter; I am lucky enough to have the choice to up sticks, if I want. No, I am talking about country people. Remember them? They used to live hereabouts in thousands, in what were called villages which had pubs where they could all gather for a drink in the old days.

People were part of the landscape till modern farming meth-

ods and financial and social pressures did away with them.

It is the few who remain who need a preservation order slapping on them, and pretty damned quick. These are the ones, of all ages, who were born in the country, live here, have to raise families, earn livings, and forge futures for themselves. If I were to list their priorities, living as they do in the same lush and peaceful bit of England from where I write you might think this was a plea from the inner-city.

**J**obs are at the top of the list, particularly for the young. We live not far from Sizewell. There was a distinct groan to be heard from school leavers when the building of the third nuclear reactor was shelved: that's how desperate they are. From unemployment, it is not a large leap to drugs and minor crime.

Schools are a worry too; not so much the standard of them, which is generally high, but the number and scattering of them. Then housing, especially for young families who cannot afford prices inflated beyond their reach by the seekers after weekend retreats. Add to that a shortage of transport, shops and pubs and

you start to get a better picture of life in the country in the late 1990s. Notice no mention of the environment, farming practices and landscape issues, which seem to be so fiercely debated in the upland areas of north London. These matter, but so do the people.

To demonstrate how far the balance in rural priorities has shifted, a close look at a small rural market town is all that is required. Ignore the estate agents, the antique shops and the tea shops. Much left? Butcher, baker, candlestick-maker? Any sense of place where a community might gather? Probably not. On a really bad day, the only person to be seen might be someone rattling a tin, seeking support for birds, bats or beech trees.

A couple of years ago, after a brief visit to Romania, I returned home to find the atmosphere in some of our local small towns disturbingly similar to the depression that hung heavy over that country. Shops with half-stocked shelves, empty establishments vacated by businesses, which had gone broke and taken for a peppercorn rent by a chap

Continued on page 2

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"Ah, Bin 65 I see. Cancel the cod. I'll have the lobster."



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Australian Chardonnay.  
The fruit of 150 years' winemaking.



# Green wellies to step down

Grace Bradberry reports on how the green wellie, once the undisputed icon of the countryside, is now losing its status among rural attire and being discarded in favour of trendy walking boots and hiking gear

**E**very Friday throughout the 1980s, overworked city-dwellers used to load up their jeeps for a country weekend. Everyone knew the form. Whether it was a converted barn or a "stately" that one was headed for, the ritual was the same: back out the jeep, load the red settee, and pack a Barbour jacket, cords, and a pair of green wellies.

Not black. They were what clueless townies wore on their occasional forays beyond the Home Counties. But green, just like the ones the local farmers wore. Unfussy, untowmey and indisputably "the right thing", they separated the Tamars from the Traceys.

Somewhere between the 1970s and the 1990s, however, they moved through a steep style curve, then dropped swiftly away into ignominy. From an upper-class idiosyncrasy, they became the insignia of the Sloane Ranger, egged on by pictures of Lady Diana Spencer, togged up in tweeds and wellies to prove her love of country pursuits.

But the rot really set in when they became the weekend wear of estate agents. The mud stuck and now they are worn only by arrivistes and die-hard traditionalists.

**T**he green wellie has been so debased, so over-exposed, that it is a sartorial joke, ripe for lampooning. Antonio Berardi, one of the young Britpack designers, has come up with skin-tight green wellie stiletto, to be worn at clubs as part of the "new Sloane" look that designers are pushing at the moment.

But though designers may be embracing Sloanedom, those born to that world are still fleeing from it. "You only have to say the word Barbour and everybody falls about with sick bags," says Ewa Lewis, social editor of *Tatler*, and a keen observer of the county set at play.

"Wellies come in all sorts of colours now, and lots of people don't wear them at all. I've got a pair of Lady Northampton's black canvas boots, but they're falling apart. I've begged her to make some more but she won't." The new "uniform" consists of padded tweed jackets, thick-soled boots, and large hats, particularly Gilly Forge's Andy Capp style. "Don't whatever you do wear feathers in your hat," warns Miss Lewis. "It really is naff."

Why wear a hat at all? To real country types, they spell

not only warmth but camouflage. "My hair is practically white and acts like a beacon," says Jennifer Guerrini-Maraldi, fashion editor of *Country Life*. "I'm worried the pheasants will see me, so I always wear a hat."

Style-snobbery aside, green is a hardy perennial for outdoors, blending as it does with the grass and trees. Even Goretex jackets, which used to come mainly in "mountain-rescue" colours (shocking pink, turquoise), are now available in a suitably rural green.

But within the narrow bounds of what is acceptable, there is some room for manoeuvre. Thomas Burberry, the more youthful diversion line of Burberry, specialises in trad-with-a-twist, as does Victoria



## WOULDN'T WEAR ANYTHING ELSE

Jonathan Dimbleby, President of the Council for the Protection of Rural England: "I have two pairs of green wellies, one for walking and the other for wearing in the cow-shed, which is covered in dung. I buy the expensive type, which last a long time and protect me from a pitchfork in the foot or any damp oozing between the toes when I am in the cow-shed. I don't care if people say they are unfashionable — I hope they are."

Jeffrey Archer, author: "I wear green wellies every Saturday at Cambridge City rugby ground which is very muddy. I wear them with woollen socks knitted for me by a lady from the Hebrides. Nothing else would be as comfortable or warm. Long live the green Wellington."

Joan Bakewell, author: "The track to my country

house is no place for leather slippers or walking boots. I wouldn't part with my green wellies. In the country one needs serious utilitarian stuff, not fashion accessories."

Santa Palmer-Tomkinson, who grew up in the country but now works for the jeweller Theo Fennell in London, confesses she still wears green wellies. She says: "They are an extremely old pair of hunting wellies, which I have worn since I was at school. But when friends come to stay, they usually wear black ones or walking boots. I am sure my sister, Tara, would much rather go out in a pair of Timberlands."

Tara, would much rather go out in a pair of Timberlands."

## THE BOOTS THAT MEAN BUSINESS



### TIMBERLAND

This yellow boot is a popular choice for the outdoor type. It has a unique style and is now available in three new versions: Norwegian Crimp, Burgundy full-grain and Black full-grain leathers. Price £130. Details 0345 669988.



### CATERPILLAR

This boot has durable Goodyear welt construction with oil-resistant sole. Available in dark brown or black. Price £79.99. Sizes: 37-46, from River Island, Office and Sacha, all with branches nationwide.



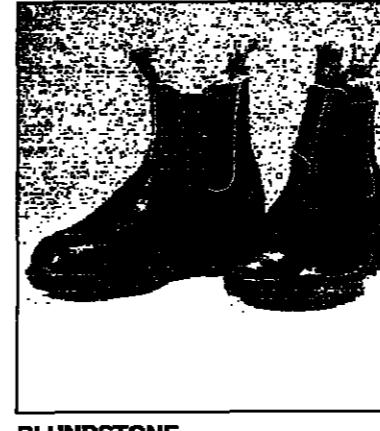
### PARABOOT

This Norwegian company designs boots guaranteed to withstand the rugged outdoors. Available in coffee, black, brown and nubuck. Price £190, sizes: 39-46, from Hamods, Knightsbridge, SW1; Office, branches nationwide, (0181-543 2211).



### CAMPER

This zip-front high-performance waterproof fabric boot with a Dynatec modern upper is available in black, petrol blue or silver grey. Price: £97. Sizes: 34-46, 39. Floral Street, Covent Garden, WC2; Harvey Nichols, SW1, (0171-379 8678).



### BLUNDSTONE

A 125-year-old footware company using the best materials and with a high standard of craftsmanship. Wide selection of classic lace-ups and pull-ons are available in claret, brown and black. Price: £60, sizes: 32-47, from leading retailers (0171-460 3832).

LEFT: Green "Border" Barbour jacket, £149, Farlows (5, Pall Mall, SW1; 0171-839 2423). Cream merino wool polo neck, £25, John Smedley (from Harrods and department stores nationwide; 0171-580 5078). Tweed pleated skirt, £174; Burgundy/jade/cream print wool challis shawl, shooting stick, £180, all Holland and Holland. Green Barbour wellies, £39, John Lewis (0171-629 7711)

ABOVE: Tweed country check jacket, £225, Brora (344 Kings Road, SW7, 0171-352 3697). Blue fleck tweed zippered cardigan, £75; matching crop sweater, £59.50; cranberry jeans, £49.50, all Thomas Burberry (191 Regent St, W1, 0171-734 4816). Green tweed cap with fake fur trim, from £75 to order, Gilly Forge (14 Addison Ave, W11, 0171-603 3833). Brown leather boots, £79.99, Caterpillar (from Cobra Sports, 0181-847 4616)

"For one glorious moment, I thought he was talking about me."



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The fruit of 150 years' winemaking.

# Convert to an architect

If mention of architects conjures up images of impressive but exorbitant designer homes, then think again. Architects are now an affordable option to manage the design and construction of even the smallest domestic building project.

Many architects will handle projects with a total budget of as little as £5,000. Julian Owen, an architect in Nottingham, feels that the traditional image of his profession as stuffy and expensive is now completely outmoded.

"Like many other professions, architecture has been streamlined by the recession. We are now more accessible and affordable than ever before," he says. "Just because a design job is small, people shouldn't assume that an architect is inappropriate."

As loft developments, barn conversions and self-build homes take an increasingly firm toe-hold in the property market, architects are proving more popular than ever. Mark Humphries, an architect and loft developer in Birmingham, attributes this popularity to a more design-aware public. "People are far more imaginative and adventurous than I'd ever believed before," he says. "In Birmingham, everyone wants shower walls made of glass bricks — I wish they didn't because they are so heavy. It's an architect's nightmare."

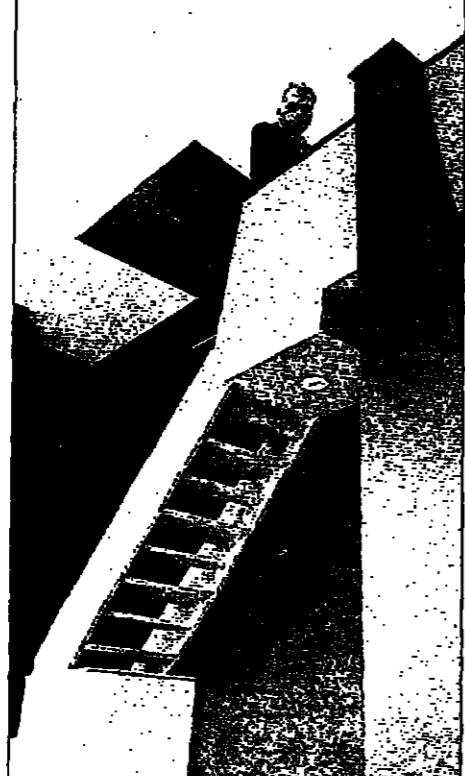
With so many people turning to architects for the first time, finding the right professional can be a daunting task. "Unfortunately, most clients just pick an architect randomly from *Yellow Pages*," Mr Owen says. "They can get a frosty response when they choose a firm more used to dealing with a budget of £250,000 in office development."

This mistake can be easily avoided by contacting the Client Advisory Service (CAS) of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). The CAS has 14 regional offices and is available to anyone contemplating building work.

As Bridget Owen of the CAS explains: "Since 1972, we have been putting clients in touch with the right architect for their purposes in their area. We have an extensive database of more than 3,000 architects throughout the UK with details of their specialities and past projects."

An architect-designed room is no longer such an expensive idea

HENRY BOURNE/CONDÉ NAST



Architect Ian Hogarth climbs the stairs in the new duplex apartment created on the roof of a former pub in Chelsea. Right: the double-height living and dining area



Another useful source of information is the Association of Self-Build Architects (ASBA). This is a network of 45 architects' practices across Britain that specialise in the design and construction of homes, as opposed to retail or commercial work. ASBA offers a first consultation free of charge and information is available on its freephone number 0800 387310.

"Having found one or more architects suited to the type and scale of your project, the next step is to look at other projects an architect has completed," Mr Owen says. "You can either ask to see photographs of their past work or, better still, if you have the time and energy go and see the projects for yourself."

Ms Owen of the CAS also

suggests that prospective clients should contact some of the architect's previous clients and ask them for references. "There is nothing like getting the client's side of the story."

An architect's fee is usually calculated as a proportion of the total cost of the project. This can vary but is usually between 10 and 15 per cent of the total cost. A figure of 12 per cent for most domestic projects would be a fair guide. But remember that architects can actually be a good financial investment by saving you far more than they cost in fees. "Usually architects get involved at the tendering stage when the various contractors present the client with an estimate for the work," Mr Owen says.

"Tenders we received on a

recent project to build a house from scratch varied from £87,000 to £128,000. With such a large variation it is not hard to see how architects can literally pay for themselves."

**ADAM BARKER**  
 • Client Advisory Service, Royal Institute of British Architects, 6 Portland Place, London W1N 4AD (0171-307 3700)  
 • Association of Self-Build Architects, Junction 41 Business Court, East Ardsley, Leeds, West Yorkshire WF3 2AB (freephone 0800 387310).  
 • Julian Owen Associates, 6 Cumberland Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 4DH (0115-922 9831).  
 • Mark Humphries (01905 621811).

## WHAT YOU GET FOR YOUR MONEY

■ **Design stage**  
 The architect works with the client in developing a brief for the work and producing ideas and sketches. The final result is an outline design which the architect then submits for planning permission. (Often an architect will consult with planners before submitting the design, especially if it is in a conservation area — this saves disappointment at a later stage.)  
 ■ **Working drawings**  
 The architect makes submissions to the local authority in order to ensure that the project complies with building regulations — this stage is concerned with health and safety, ensuring that the construction is sound.

■ **Detailed design**  
 The design is produced covering the whole project, including fixtures and fittings, right down to the finish on the bath taps.  
 ■ **Tendering process**  
 The architect invites tenders from contractors, then chooses the best offer and makes sure that written contracts are signed, binding the contractor to complete the work.  
 ■ **Construction**  
 The architect manages the construction process, attends site meetings and prepares the certificates necessary for raising money from building societies.

## SPACE SAVERS

Littman Goddard Hogarth in Chelsea, west London, has six architects. The practice undertakes all manner of projects — small and large, domestic, retail and commercial.

"More people are turning to architects as an alternative to interior designers," says Ian Hogarth, a partner. "The real advantage of architects is that they are trained and skilled in space, light and colour not just surface decoration."

He feels that the increase in numbers using architects is in part a product of a more design-aware public.

"There is a backlash against the dreary properties churned out by the volume home builders," he says. "Sadly, developers continue to be obsessed with the number of bedrooms. They pay no attention to the potential of the space that they are using."

An architect's work can add substantially to the value of the property, whether aesthetic value reaped by the occupants, or financial value from a higher selling price or rent.

Even small projects can benefit from this input. Littman Goddard Hogarth recently completed a total redesign of a one-bedroom flat in Piccadilly, central London.

"First we removed everything in the flat and opened it up," says Stephen Turville, the architect. "Having converted it to an open-plan space, we put in a sliding wall to partition off the bedroom. The flat now has variable space."

The whole project, which took three months, cost £55,000, including construction work, materials and the architect's fees.

This may sound like a lot of money, but Mr Hogarth puts the costs of the project into perspective. "The work turned a shabby flat that was impossible to let into a space that was let at nearly treble the previous rent four days after completion. The flat will not need any refurbishment for 20 years."

**Littman Goddard**  
 Hogarth, 12 Chelsea Wharf, 15 Lots Road, London SW10 0QJ (0171-351 7871).

**PORLTAND ROAD, W11**

Behind the Victorian facade, a most attractively presented house with a west-facing garden.

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen/dining room, utility room, cloakroom.

Freehold £265,000

JOHN D WOOD & CO. 0171-727 0705

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**PHYSIC PLACE, SW3**

In the environs of the Royal Hospital and Physic Gardens a well planned and beautifully finished house in a small exclusive courtyard.

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, study area, garage, garden, terraces.

Lease to 2086 £675,000

CHELSEA: 0171-352 1484

**BOX, Wiltshire** Freehold Price Guide: £450,000

An intriguing property of several buildings including a 4 bedroom house, a recording studio and a swimming pool complex with additional sleeping accommodation plus kitchen, garage block and office.

CIRENCESTER: 01285 642244

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**DULWICH, SE21** Freehold £495,000  
 In Alleyne Park, a double-fronted house with a very spacious well arranged ground floor opening onto an 85 ft south west facing garden. 8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, breakfast room, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, 2 garages.

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 North London 0171-722 3336 Wimbledon & Surrey 0181-946 9447  
 South of the M4 01256 398004 North of the M4 01865 311522

**RECENTS PARK, NW1** Lease to 2066 £175,000  
 On the south side of the Park, in a private enclave, a quietly located second floor flat overlooking the courtyard. Bedroom, bathroom, reception room, kitchen, utility room, double garage, parking.

ST JOHNS WOOD: 0171-722 3336

**PIMLICO, SW1** Freehold £595,000  
 In Moreton Place, an elegant and well decorated house with long sash windows onto the front balcony and a separate basement flat. 4 beds, 2 baths, 2 reception rooms, study, kitchen, utility room, patio.

BELGRAVIA: 0171-730 9854

**DOWNTON, Hampshire** Freehold £295,000  
 On a private estate a beautifully converted former carriage house with fine views over the surrounding farmland. 4 bedrooms, shower room, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, double garage, gardens.

LIMINGTOM: 01590 677233

**CHURCH, Surrey** Freehold £395,000  
 A modern house with all the advantages and within the NHBC guarantee but built in a traditional style in delightful countryside. 5 bedrooms, 2 shower rooms, bathroom, hall, 3 reception rooms, study, kitchen, utility room, double garage, gardens.

EARNHAM: 01252 737115

Fiona Beckett inspects a £1.8 million, 17th-century house that spares nothing for the comfort of its inhabitants

# Lots of rooms with a view

## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

**HERTFORDSHIRE** • An exceptional 17th-century Grade I\* listed country house, with historic, decorated stairwell rated among the best-designed and preserved late 17th-century murals in England, set in delightful formal gardens and grounds. • Reception hall, staircase hall, drawing room, dining room, sitting room, study, snooker room. • Large kitchen, breakfast room, utility room. • Master bedroom suite, guest bedroom suite with sitting room, five further principal bedrooms, four further bathrooms (all en suite). • Staff quarters comprising two bedrooms, bathroom, living room, kitchenette. • Large wine cellar, storerooms, boiler room, garaging, paddock. • In all, about seven acres.



The imposing sitting room of Northaw Place (above) and the magnificent, curved stairway, impressively decorated by Louis Leguerre with 17th-century murals said to be among best-designed and preserved in England



Relaxing: a spacious, luxurious bathroom made for two

The diagrams in the agent's details — presumably the owner got bored with the corner baths (very 1993), ripped them out and started all over again.

What is really impressive about the house is the attention to detail. Nothing that could contribute in the smallest way to the comfort of its inhabitants had been overlooked.

There were boys' things, such as a comfortable study (computer, fax, sofa to relax), and a movie-set billiards room. There were girls' things: enough wardrobes to house Imelda Marcos's entire shoe collection, a dream of a kitchen with an electric cooker and an Aga

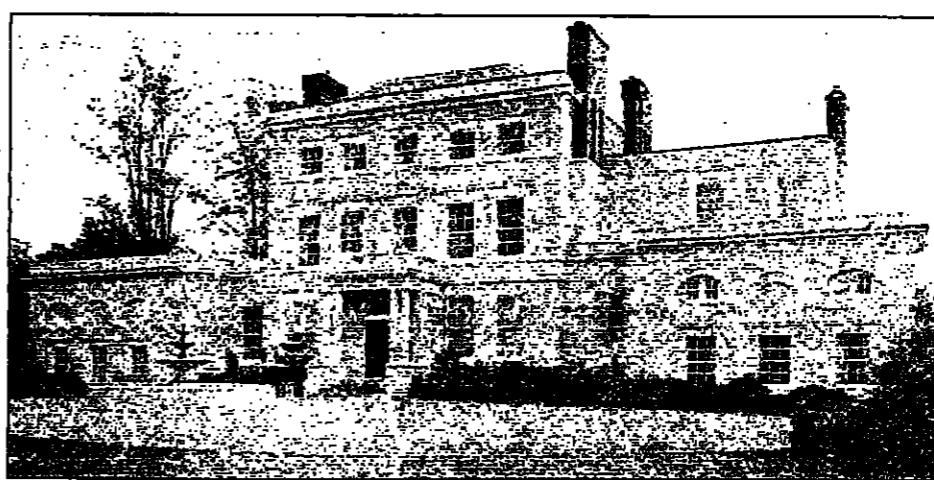
ingly well-cuddled woolly elephants in one of the bedrooms) of having been inhabited by four teenage daughters. The sugar pink carpets in two of their rooms were immaculate. How do these girls manage it?

Should Northaw Place sound *too* perfect, there are, for me, two drawbacks. The garden, though well maintained, hasn't had the same care lavished on it as the house (there's little incentive to go out of doors), and for some the neighbours may be a tad too close for comfort. The brochure implies that the house stands on its own in the seven-acre grounds but the developers who owned it before built a courtyard of six other houses alongside.

There's plenty of lawn, however, which would be handy for croquet or for pitching a large marquee, as well as — something I have always longed for — a ha-ha. And even though the grounds aren't hugely extensive, the house overlooks countryside and farmland.

It's easy to forget that you're only a mile and a half from the M25, 16 miles from the centre of London and a mere 40 minutes from Heathrow, assuming the M25 is not at a standstill. But then, if you lived at Northaw you could simply jump into your private plane.

• *Northaw Place* is for sale through Knight Frank, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, 01494 675368.



A PICTURE OF BRITAIN'S WILD PLANT LIFE

## SAVE £5 ON FLORA BRITANNICA BY RICHARD MABEY

*Flora Britannica*, the definitive new guide to wild flowers, plants and trees, illustrated with more than 450 colour pictures, will be regarded as a classic for many years to come. *Times* readers can buy it for just £25 including p&p (list price £30).

*Flora Britannica* is the fruit of a five-year project to create a cultural flora for Britain undertaken by the author and broadcaster Richard Mabey. It is an account of the role of wild plants in our social lives, our arts, our customs and our landscape.

It is a work of imagination and scholarship as well as reportage, the culmination of Mabey's research and thinking over the last 20 years.

His research aroused popular interest and

grassroots involvement on an exceptional scale. People all over Britain, both rural and urban, have been encouraged to record and celebrate the cultural dimensions of their own flora and to send their memories, anecdotes, observations and regional knowledge to *Flora Britannica*.

Richard Mabey has skilfully combined these unique contributions with his own beautifully written account of the origins, habitats, history, character and usage of 1,000 species, including trees and ferns.

The outcome is one of the most important and remarkable books about Britain's native and naturalised plants and the intricate and fascinating relationship between plant life and human society.

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(24 Hours)

Q Prompted by rumours that recent droughts have led to houses cracking up, we did a quick recce of ours and found half a dozen hairline cracks. Help!

A Most houses have cracks and if none of yours are wider than 5mm it is unlikely that they are caused by subsidence. Pointers include whether the cracks show inside and out; extend through the foundations; are narrower at one end than at the other; and whether windows and doors are distorted or floors slope. If you are still worried, phone the Building Research Establishment (0171-505 6622) for a copy of its leaflet *Cracks Caused by Foundation Movement*, price £3.85.

Q My husband and I are thinking of emigrating to a warmer climate — South Africa and New Zealand are our favourite options. Where do we start?

A First, check with the respective embassies that you are eligible for emigration. The New Zealand Immigration Service (0171-973 0366)

## PROPERTY ANSWERS

Rachel Kelly, Property Correspondent, replies to your queries

supplies a self-assessment guide. For property information, send an SAE for the free publications *Destination New Zealand* and *Life in New Zealand* — which also have a limited list of some agents — to: New Zealand Immigration Service, New Zealand House, 80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TQ. Knight Frank has three offices in New Zealand: Auckland (00 64 9 377882), Wellington (00 64 4 472 3529) and Christchurch (00 64 3 379 9787).

The South African High Commission has an information pack, *South Africa News*, specifically for Britons, and relevant pages of *Yellow Pages* for agents. In Britain, the Commission recommends the agents Pam Golding International (0171-629 2283) and Peter Chamberlain of Realty 1 DRR (01283 716091).

Q I want to let my two-bedroomed flat and have heard that some agents will pay for refurbishment. Is this a good idea?

A Malcolm Harrison, of the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA), says: "I have heard of such offers, usually from agents trying to break into the market, but no reputable agent would do this. Such offers may not be soundly based." If you are worried by the state of your property, try to work out if its decor reflects the value of the property. An ARLA booklet, *Trouble-free letting: What every landlord and tenant should ask*, is free to tenants and landlords. For a copy, send an SAE to: ARLA, Maple House, 53-55 Woodside Road, Anerley, London SE23 6AA.

• *Property Answers*, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 0XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures cannot be returned.



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## GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON  
replies to readers' letters

**Q** All my gardening bi-blites say I should cut down my blue, hardy geraniums after flowering — leaves and flower stalks — to encourage a second flush of flowering. So why is it I never have a single further flower, let alone a flush? — D. Brooks, Robertsbridge, East Sussex.

**A** My guess is that you have the wrong "blue geranium". Many species will flower again — *G. pratense*, *clarkei*, *sylvaticum*, *himalayanum* and more. Even without cutting back they will often throw a few later flowers. But *G. x magnificum*, one of the commonest blue geraniums, with coarse, hairy leaves, only ever flowers once, in early summer, and I have never persuaded it to do otherwise. Is this your variety?

**Q** The *Eucryphia glutinosa* I planted in 1980 at last flowered this year, but is getting rather tall and untidy. Should I prune it soon or in the early spring? — Mrs M. Kepp, Seaford, East Sussex.

**A** What is untidy? In gardens we get used to seeing *Eucryphia 'Nymanii'*, which is a columnar, evergreen hybrid tree. *E. glutinosa* is deciduous and harder, but not columnar. I used to have an old multistem tree of it, 20ft tall and as much across, looking like an old thorn. By all means keep your tree tidy but do not ask it to change its shape. Badly placed branches can be cut out in March or April. Otherwise, no pruning should be needed.

**Q** I wish to move a beautiful, slender 30ft-tall *Chamaecyparis columnaris 'Glauca'* a dis-

ly every year. The remedy depends on exactly what the fungi are living on underground, and exactly which species of puffball they are. It may be that there is woody debris under the lawn, which encourage the fungi; investigate this and dig out if necessary. If you have a puffball happy to live in open turf, the remedy — altering the texture, drainage, fertility and pH of the soil — may or may not be worth the effort.

**Q** For 26 years I have been trying to eradicate Japanese knotweed from my own and neighbouring gardens. Apart from the ability to break through concrete, it resists all types of weedkiller, which only spots the leaves. — J.L. Rowe, Southend, Essex.

**A** All I can add is that any plant regularly defoliated is weakened, so never let it develop proper stems. I wonder, too, if you have tried putting the weedkiller down into the stems? So often plants that are difficult to kill survive because it is so hard to get the chemicals into their system through the leaves. Try cutting off the stems at 6in and putting ammonium sulphamate (RootOut) into the hollowed stems. Or see Richard Mabey's solution on page 26!

**● Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9AN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures cannot be returned.**

**A** The spores may look alarmingly invasive, but the likelihood is that you have just one or a few established permanent colonies of puffballs under your lawn, which find conditions there to their liking, so making them able to produce fruiting bodies above ground — the puffballs themselves — regular-

Dolgellau, Gwynedd LL40 1UU, 01341 422524 because it comes in different colours, including terracotta. A. Lloyd, Farnborough, Hants, prefers normal (not quick-set) Aralite, from hardware shops, and says: "Sit the glued pots over a light bulb so that the heat cures the glue before the pot is moved."

## Readers' tips on mending terracotta pots

SEVERAL readers sent in suggested materials for repairing terracotta pots. Mrs M. Finn, of Cranbrook, Kent, swears by Plastic Padding Chemical Metal, made by Locite, of Watford, Watford Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1UB (01707 821000). Peter King, editor of the *Good Gardens Guide*, uses Milliput (Unit 5, The Marian,

## The root of the problem

Stephen Anderton  
explains how to get  
rid of a tree stump,  
with muscle power  
and a little patience

**W**hen a tree has to go, stump and all, it means hard work. But, whether you get it done by machine or slog away and dig it out yourself, there are a few tricks to be learnt which will make the job easier.

There was a sad old apple tree in my garden, "pruned" in the past and given the kind of amputations which went out with the *Victory at Trafalgar*.

It was not a pretty sight. This year the tree made only a few twigs from the stumps, and I resolved to have it out.

The apple trees in my garden were planted when the house was built 90 years ago. Those which have survived are fat trees, with the size of stump you would not wish to have in a disease-free, new vegetable patch.

So the root had to come out. One option would have been to have the stump ground out professionally. Machines for this purpose vary in size, but the smaller, slower kinds will fit through a 3ft-gate. The tree is sawn off at ground level before the grinder is let loose on the stump below.

In principle, a stump-grinder is a fat chain saw gone into nose-dive. A "scrumbustulator", my neighbour calls it, and I can see why. Fist-sized teeth tear down into the underground wood, levered downwards by the weight of the machine and the skill of the operator. The screaming and tearing can last half an hour, or, for a large stump of an old oak, two hours or more. The machine's outlets are, of course, well guarded. Chipped wood flies out at an astonishing speed, and so do stones and soil. I once saw a stump-grinder demonstrated on a street tree in Chelsea; it put out both headlights on an expensive BMW.

Stump-grinders are not things to hire and use yourself, unless you are exceptionally confident with machines — and strong. Most companies charge anywhere from £50 for a small tree (6ft-20ft) to more than £2,000 for a large tree (over 100ft). One company in London boasted that its biggest job had been a 120ft poplar which took nine men to fell and cost the owner £2,600 and a further £600-£700 to grind out the stump. My complaint is that, having spent money on a man and machine,



GRAPHIC BY DAVID HART

you are still usually left with a scorched wooden bowl of root in the bottom of the hole, particularly with the larger stumps. You can garden on top of it, and it will eventually rot, and harbour less disease than a full stump. But it is better out. So I decided to dig my stump out.

The first rule when digging a stump out is not to cut the tree off at ground level, as when grinding.

Remove the branches but not the trunk. You will need plenty of trunk to pull on when the root starts to come loose. My tree had 12ft of trunk and stumpy arms, and looked like a wooden Christ over Rio de Janeiro.

The second rule is to have patience. It's no use hacking away in fury. Method will get you there much faster. Take out a circular trench of soil, like a doughnut, around the trunk and make it twice as wide as your spade. Narrow trenches are no use; you need to be able to stand in there to swing an axe.

Keep digging until you come to the first roots radiating from the trunk and chop them with an axe at both ends. Always cut at the outer end first, then where it joins the tree. If you try to cut a root which is no longer firmly anchored to the trunk, the axe tends to bounce off and you waste your energy. Then dig again and get out some more soil.

And that's a lot — you have got through most of the side roots. At this point you'll probably ask yourself why you didn't have the tree winched out. A winch does make light work of pulling over a tree, but you must have something to pull against — usually another tree. With one-tree gardens you are stuck. Digging it has to be.

More often than not, a tree will have a vertical taproot, yet it is surprising what support a few remaining small roots can provide. Try pushing and rocking the trunk, perhaps with someone's help. Get it to start leaning and cut another root if you can.

Lift it and rock it again and, suddenly, with that awful groaning, the last bits of root tear free and down it comes. Wonderful. The children, cowering in the Wendy house, rush out to jump up and down and whoop. No winch. No grinder. Just patience, and more than a little muscle.

**SNOW TIME SPECTACULAR**

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## GARDENS TO VISIT THIS WEEKEND

Hackwood Park,  
Basingstoke, Hampshire  
(01256 23107).

One mile south of  
Basingstoke, signed off  
Tunworth Road. Open  
tomorrow, 1.30-5.30pm. £2,  
children free.

Tomorrow is the last chance this year to visit a gem of English garden history. The "Spring Wood" is an outstanding example of a formal woodland garden dating from the early 18th century and inspired by the French style of André le Nôtre. The design was planned from a central circular area, with a series of eight symmetrical avenues radiating out through the woodland that is especially rich in beech. The garden's main feature is the balance of natural woodland setting with fine architecture, in particular, follies and temples designed by James Gibbs. On an autumn day, when the leaves are beginning to turn, the garden is a magical place.

The Weir, Swainshill,  
Herefordshire (01684 25005).

Five miles west of  
Hereford on A433. Open  
Wed-Sun to end of Oct.  
11am. £1.50, children 75p.

In autumn, this is principally a place to walk in undisturbed and natural surroundings, enjoying the views across the River Wye, with the Black Mountains in the distance. Created on a steep valley slope during the 1920s, in combination of the ambitious site and the use of well-planted trees and shrubs to give a decorative and yet natural picture, was typical of the period. The rock garden survives from the original, as do many of the trees, such as the large acers, whose canopies of autumn foliage contrast with

the columns of upright evergreen junipers. It is worth taking one of the steep paths to get a spectacular view across the river.

Marwood Hill, near  
Barnstaple, Devon (01271 42528).

Four miles northwest of  
Barnstaple. Open daily,  
except Dec 25, dawn to  
dusk. £2, accompanied  
under-12s free.

Dr Smart's 20-acre garden near the north Devon coast has a reputation for its fascinating plants and their arrangements in a succession of harmoniously linking areas. The house overlooks the garden from the top of one side of the valley site and there is a real sense of landscape as you look up and down the garden and out to the countryside.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

## LIFTING DAHLIAS FOR THE WINTER

1 After the first frosts, dahlias will have drooping flowers and shrivelled, black leaves. Cut off the tops and lift the tubers.

2 Dust with flowers of sulphur, or shake in a plastic bag with sulphur (carefully). Then store in an airy box in a cool, dark place.

Cut here

**Weekend Tips**

■ Protect late cauliflowers from frost by bending the leaves down over the curds. Pot up mint roots for winter/early spring picking under glass.

■ Lift main crop potatoes. Lift chicory for forcing indoors.

■ When blackened by frost, lift dahlias, cut off the tops at 2-3in, dry in an airy place, dust with flowers of sulphur, label and store in a cool, dark place. Dry off potted begonias and store in a cold, dark place. Gently feed cyclamen with tomato fertiliser to build up flowering strength.

■ Complete the picking of late apples. Spray peaches troubled with peach leaf curl before the leaves drop.

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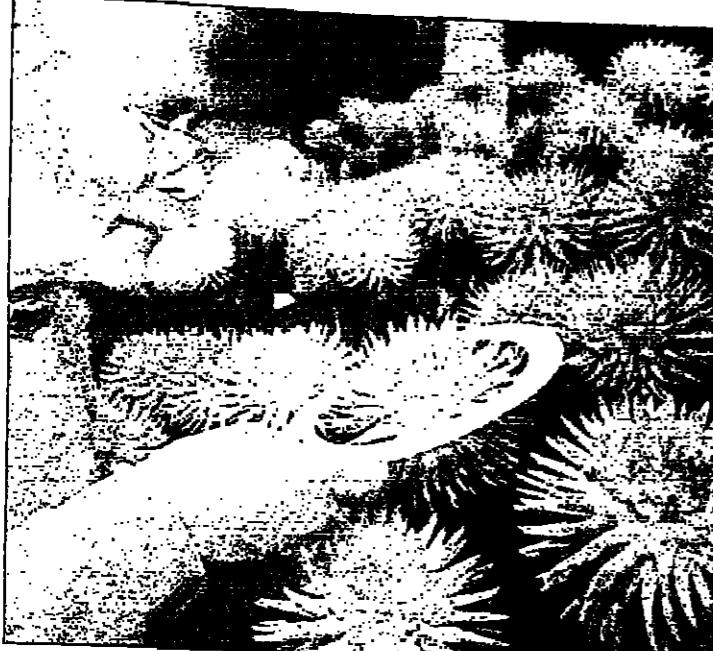
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Nigel Colborn in praise of the much-maligned dahlia — as vibrant showstopper or elegant addition to smart borders



Alan Buller measures 'Sylvia's Desire' with a 'ring of doom'

I'm off to the Dahlia Show," I said the other day. "Hmph!" snorted my haughty gardening acquaintance. "Never look for subtlety in a dahlia — gross, garish things' quite without charm." Rather than sweeping a condemnation, I felt, especially when one considers what a long and distinguished record the genus has.

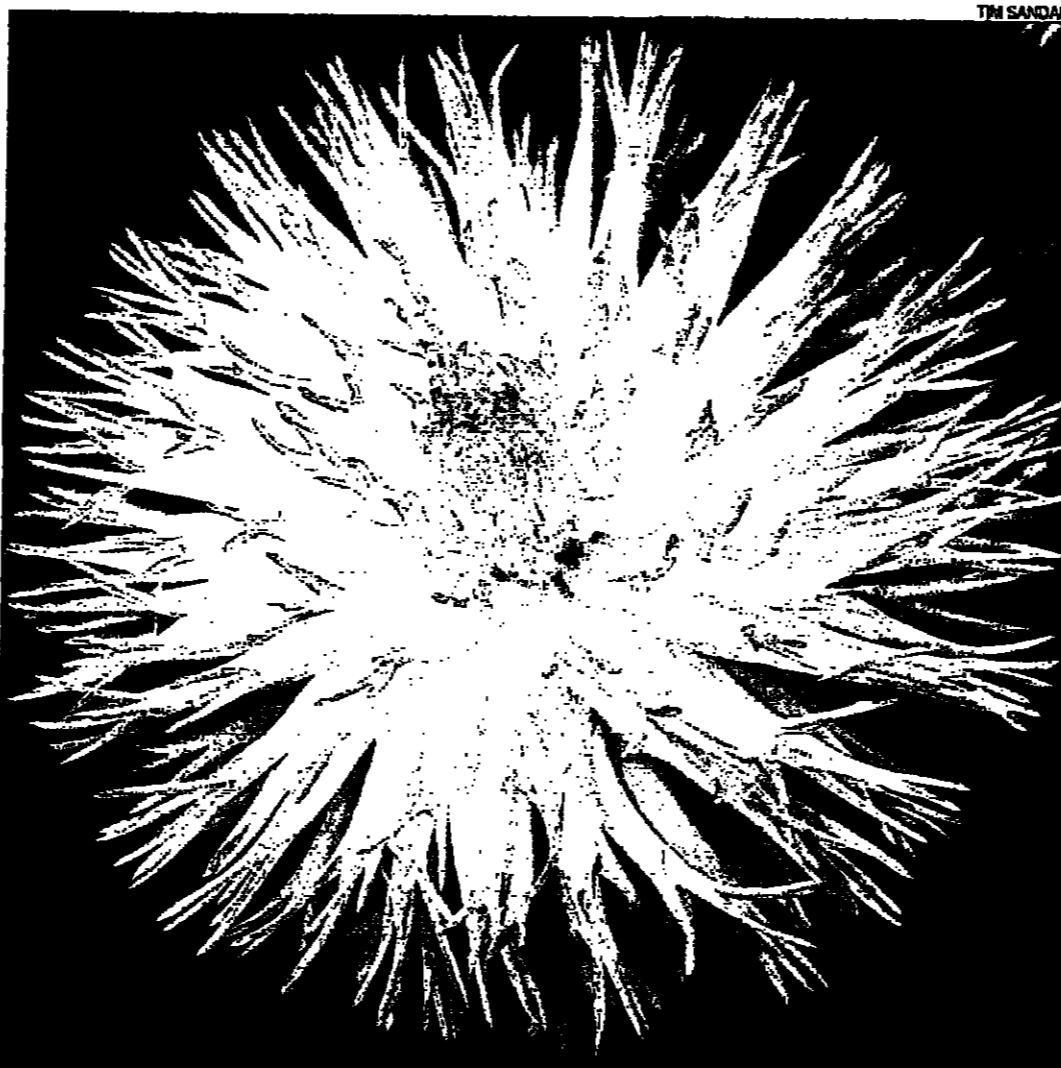
In their native state, dahlias are among the daintiest and most alluring of the Central American wildflowers, but garden forms have been bred to exhibit almost every imaginable colour, shape and flower size, from tiny rounded pompons to giants that look like ill-chosen wedding hats. Some are, frankly, horrible, but of the 500 or more varieties offered by nurseries to amateur gardeners, there remains a mouth-watering selection of cultivars whose elegance could not fail to please the most refined of gardening tastes.

Dahlias have an aristocratic history. The genus is named after Dr Dahl, a pupil of Linnaeus, but was discovered in Mexico in 1788 by Baron Humboldt. The first plants came to Spain, from where the Marchioness of Bute acquired specimens for Britain. These were lost, but the genus was reintroduced in 1804 by Lady Holland and, by the 1830s, three wild species had been distributed around Europe and were used to produce interesting new crosses. Natural variations in colours and shapes gave the dahlia huge potential for further hybridisation and for more than a century, as fancy varieties proliferated, dahlias grew in popularity not only as garden plants, but also for exhibition.

In the 1950s, every front garden — even the humblest and scruffiest — would sport dahlias. Cottagers planted them among leeks and cabbages; suburbanites bordered their drives with them and public parks bedded them by the acre. On and on, they would bloom, opening flowers day after day through October until the first frost of autumn converted all that colour into black mush (see Weekend Tips, opposite). But, by the end of the 1960s, when gardening turned lazy and staking, tying, disbudding and earwig control began to look too much like hard work, the dahlia slipped into decline, never to regain its former popularity.

Heralding this change in fashion, the most genteel of our garden gurus began to damn

# Dahlias bright and beautiful



Dahlias were discovered in Mexico in 1788 by Baron Humboldt. This one is 'Marlene Joy'

dahlias more roundly than they deserved. Their strong colours, we were told, and outsize flowers failed to sit comfortably in those romantic plantings championed by the neo-Jekylls. Unjust, of course, because the genus is so varied that there are kinds to suit every gardening style, but the mud stuck and dahlias became a minority interest.

To a "dahlias only" show, however, and you will be staggered by the diversity. Rank upon rank of blooms greeted me at the

National Dahlia Show held at the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall in Westminster at the beginning of October. How their brightness contrasted with the grey, tired faces of the exhibitors, most of whom had been up all night staging their, hopefully, prize-winning blooms. And herein, I suspect, lies the cause of their decline as garden plants. There are dahlias for exhibitions and dahlias for gardens but never the twain... Show dahlias are raised as a hobby — horticultural,

certainly, but more akin to whippet breeding than to the artistic planting design so loved by the genteel classes. George Tonnington, a fanatical amateur from Cheshire who has exhibited prize blooms for 40 years, told me that to raise dahlias you need to debranch and disbud. Allow only three branches and disbud these to the last bloom. Three flowers per plant, and that's your lot. Then there's the need to cover plants with polythene — hardly conducive to ornamental garden-



Howard Lane, Terry Gillam and Brian Madders judging blooms

ing. George agrees, "but for kicks, there's nothing to beat growing exhibition dahlias", he says.

The shiniest example of dedication was Richard Thomas, a Sussex shepherd who, between looking after a thousand ewes, devotes almost every moment of his spare time to raising show dahlias. "I manage half an hour with my plants each day at teatime," he says, "20 minutes after lunch and usually an hour when I finish work around ten in the evening." "Don't you have any help?" I ask. "Just from the three sheep dogs," he replies.

Dahlia judges are sticklers for bloom size. I watched Alan Buller, a retired policeman with resplendent side whiskers, holding measuring rings over what looked like perfect flowers. There is a two-inch tolerance — too large or too small, and the entry is disqualified. And boy are they strict. Jack Wood, regular correspondent for *Garden News* — the showman's bible — calls the judges "horticultural traffic wardens", and their measuring devices "the rings of doom".

"But what about an ordinary gardener like me?" I ask a gaggle of exhibitors. "What varieties should I grow in my borders?" At first they look at me with puzzled faces. They wonder how I could think of a life where one does not work through the night picking, pruning and displaying blooms before judges arrive early next morning. "Colarettes," suggests one. "Waterlily class," says another, and they point out,

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# Dog tired of being homeless

Dogs with image problems  
can still make excellent pets

**S**tiny had the sort of image problem spin doctors dread. "When he came to us he had bad skin, cankerous ears, overgrown nails and smelt terribly," says Fiona Macdonald at the National Canine Defence League rescue centre in Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex.

The 12-year-old black labrador cross was not the most immediately appealing of pets but after several baths, treatment from the vet and local publicity he has gone to a loving home. He is now called Percy. Sadly not all

animals are adopted so quickly. Jo Crozier at the RSPCA headquarters in Horsham, West Sussex, says: "If they're fluffy and cute there's usually no problem finding owners. It's the less attractive and older dogs that people are not so interested in but they're just as deserving of a good home and they've often had a very hard time already. Many are abandoned and many are cruelty cases." Last year the RSPCA rehomed 81,943 animals. Rehoming, though, is not just about people choosing the pets they want. It's also a case of whether prospective owners can offer the right environment.

The RSPCA carries out home checks on all would-be owners of dogs, and sometimes cats. But because its 200 branches are registered as separate charities, rules on rehoming vary. Some branches will not allow cats to go to homes on main roads. Some will not allow puppies or certain breeds to go to families with children.

"The animal's welfare is top priority and that's how the type of accommodation is considered," Mrs Crozier says. The price of animals varies but is usually around £35-£40 for a cat and £70 for a dog.

The RSPCA issues a leaflet, *Is Pet Of Your Own?*, which tells people what to consider before taking on an animal. "Pet ownership takes time, money, commitment and patience. It will change your life," it warns.

Ros Bicen knows all about this because in the past two years she has taken in three dogs and three cats from rescue centres. Tootsie is a three-year-old crossbreed terrier which had been badly neglected and had never been house trained. Sherry is an 11-year-old Springer Spaniel which had no fur and was emaciated and without muscle when it came to the RSPCA centre.

"Sherry hadn't been paid any attention at all and had never been walked. When I let her off the lead she had no idea how to respond. There are many animals at the centres which have no problems but I know from experience that if they do have problems you can get over them with care, time, perseverance and affection. My dogs have given me back far more than I've ever given them," says Mrs Bicen, who helps at a rescue centre.

The UK's largest dog welfare charity is the National



Ros Bicen with her children Claudia, ten, and Sebastian, seven, and rescued dogs, from left, Sherry, Tootsie and Sheba

Canine Defence League. It has 15 rescue centres and about 2,000 dogs at a time for rehoming. Would-be owners are asked to contribute towards vaccinations and neutering. The charity issues guidelines for the care of rescue dogs and a particular leaflet for greyhounds and lurchers. Greyhounds, in particular, are often at the bottom of the pile when it comes to choosing dogs for rehoming. People feel that they need a great deal of exercise but in fact they need two short walks a day.

On October 20, Battersea Dogs Home will open a £6 million kennel for 380 dogs. The average stay for dogs at the home is 40 days, but some are there for more than a year. Dogs cost £35-£70, which includes all injections and for the first three months owners can bring dogs back for free veterinary care.

Dolly, a six-year-old bull terrier, featured on the BBC television programme *Animal Hospital*, was seen by the children's author and book illustrator Lisa Kopper. "When Dolly appeared on television she was in an appalling state. But as soon as I saw her I said 'that's my dog'. She has lots of character," Ms Kopper says.

Mabel is another dog which found a new home, thanks to the BBC. The border collie cross was found abandoned in filthy conditions in an empty flat just before Christmas by the RSPCA. Mabel is now resident on *Blue Peter*. "We're very pleased. Having a rescued mongrel on *Blue Peter* sets an excellent example," an RSPCA spokesman says.

One way that the league encourages rehoming of mature dogs is through fostering.

The league's Linda Capel says: "A lot of people might be put off taking these animals because of the

possibility of vet fees. Fostering enables the dog to be rehomed but we will pay vet fees if the dog needs treatment." There is another way to help animals. Dog lovers who are unable to keep a dog at home can sponsor one at a rescue centre.

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THESE two dogs need loving homes.

Corri is a 12-year-old neutered male collie crossed with Alsatian. He is house-trained, good with people and travels well. He has been at the centre for seven years.

Baldyman is a 12-year-old male collie-cross who likes cats, dogs and older children (he sometimes steals food from younger children). House-trained and a good traveller, he has been at the centre for eight months.

Contact the National Canine Defence League, Brighton Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex BN4 5LT (01273 45256).



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## Cat cones

IN ITS relentless search for a toy for a mature cat, Pet News will be trying

## PET NEWS

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## Help for hogs

THE British Hedgehog Preservation Society invites Pet News readers to send for free leaflets on how to care for hedgehogs, plus car stickers saying "Don't Squash Me". Write to the society at Knowbury House, Shropshire SY8 3LQ.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

**TIPS ON  
TAKING  
THE BEST  
FAMILY  
PORTRAIT**  
Page 13

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JACK CROSSLEY

## Feather Report



The little owl has a frowning face

shining eyes that look straight forward. Their head and neck seem to form a single feathered column, but in fact they can twist their head round until they are looking backwards. Other birds do not need to do this, because their eyes are on either side of their head.

They do not have any enemies — except tawny owls. But these big brothers will kill them, if they are rivals for a nesting hole in a pollarded tree.

DERWENT MAY

• Feather Reports: A Chronicle of Bird Life from the Pages of *The Times* by Derwent May, illustrated by Robin Jacques, is published this week by Robson Books at £12.95.

• What's about: *Birders* — watch out for bramblings joining flocks of feeding chaffinches. *Twitchers* — black-and-white warbler, St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly; red-eyed vireo, Portgwarra, Cornwall; Western Bonell's warbler, Landguard, Suffolk. Details from *Birdline*, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

have been breeding regularly in Britain since 1896. Nowadays they are more plentiful on the west side of England. They have probably lost many nesting sites in East Anglia as the hedgerow trees have been cut down.

Like all owls, they have flat faces and

# Little bird, big personality

## Feather Report



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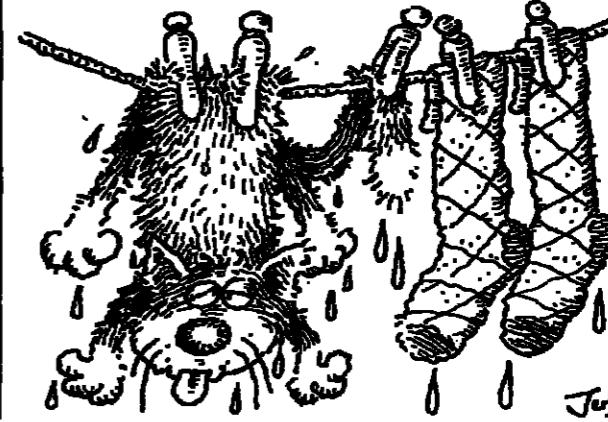
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## FACT FILE

- RSPCA hotline for nearest rescue centre, 0990 555999.
- National Canine Defence League, 0171-327 0006.
- The Dogs Home, Battersea, 0171-622 3626.
- Animal Hospital queries to Animal Hospital, BBC TV, Room 4604, 201 Wood Lane, White City, London W12.



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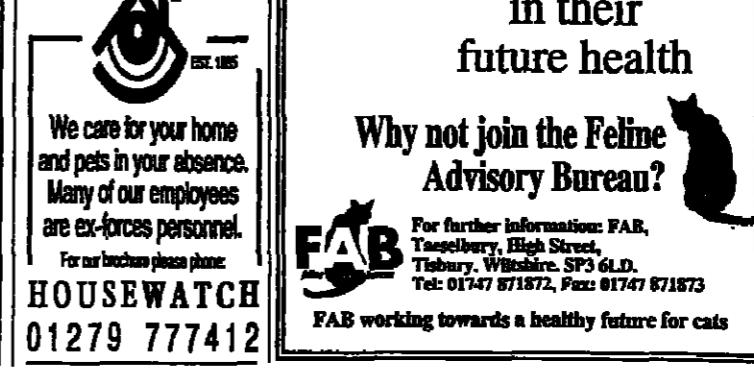


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FAB working towards a healthy future for cats

A Vet Writes

# Avoiding catastrophe

"Curiosity killed the cat" contains more than a grain of truth. In spite of their reputation for wisdom and good sense, cats don't find it difficult to get into trouble.

A cat can't resist a hole. It wants to find out what's down there. Then, while it's having a snooze, someone closes the trap door, nails the boards back or bricks up the hole in the wall. Lucky cats are released within hours — indignant, never grateful. Unlucky ones stay incarcerated for days. If builders, electricians or central heating engineers are at work, make sure the cat's visible before they down tools. It's happened to me. My kitten got into the cavity between the house walls. A plumber had left a floorboard out of place. Meowing noises from an air-brick gave the game away. The cat would not leave the way it went in, so a kitten-sized hole had to be chopped in the air-brick to allow an unrepentant and slightly-ruffled cat to escape.

A washing machine or tumble drier offers a draught-free cat-bed. Lucky cats are found before the door is closed. Unfortunate ones are injured or killed. Check before pushing the button.

Cats seem better at climbing up trees than climbing down and often the fire brigade is called. I'm not sure this is wise. The cat may panic and climb higher or fall. It's better to wait. Once

the needle negotiates the mouth it usually travels through the intestine until it is held up at the anus.

Straining and discomfort are the main signs plus a thread hanging out, once again pointing the way. Don't pull it.

The message to every tailor or seamstress is to thread your needles when sewing is finished.

JAMES ALLCOCK

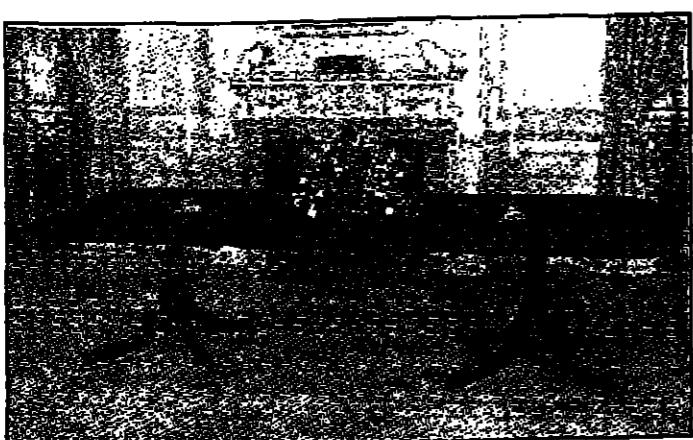
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We have just published a new edition of "Bodypower" - the sensational book by Dr Vernon Coleman which hit the Sunday Times bestseller list and the Bookseller chart too. This fascinating book, reprinted 14 times in the UK and sold in just about every country in the world, shows exactly how 9 out of 10 illnesses can be conquered without seeing a doctor.

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"One of the most sensible treatises on personal survival that has ever been published. It sets out, in the simplest language, an enormous amount of knowledge in the easiest possible way" - (Yorkshire Evening Post)

"Don't miss it! Dr Coleman's theories could change your life ... the evolutionary way to look better and feel younger" - (Sunday Mirror)

"... a self help manual for maintaining or regaining health using your own resources. Vernon Coleman presents his evidence with clarity and evangelical fervour" - (The Good Book Guide)

"There are plenty of good books on healthcare - I'd recommend Bodypower" - (Woman's Own)

"Arm yourself with a copy of Bodypower - it could make stress a thing of the past" - (Woman's World)

"Despite my own medical training and knowledge of nature's devices, Dr Coleman made me think again" - (BBC World Service)

"marvelously succinct ... refreshingly sensible" - (The Spectator)

Vernon Coleman is the UK's leading medical author and campaigning journalist. He is a string of bestsellers to his name and his books are sold in their millions around the world. He scours the world's medical journals and libraries to bring you invaluable information that could dramatically improve the quality of your life. Here are extracts from just a few of the many thousands of readers' letters sent to this office:

"It is lovely to have someone who cares about people as you do. You tell us such a lot of things that we are afraid to ask our doctors" - (K.C.)

"I greatly admire your no-nonsense approach to things and your acting as champion of the people" - (L.A.)

"I admire your forthright and refreshingly honest way of expressing your views and opinions ... bless you for being a light in the eternal darkness" - (B.O.)

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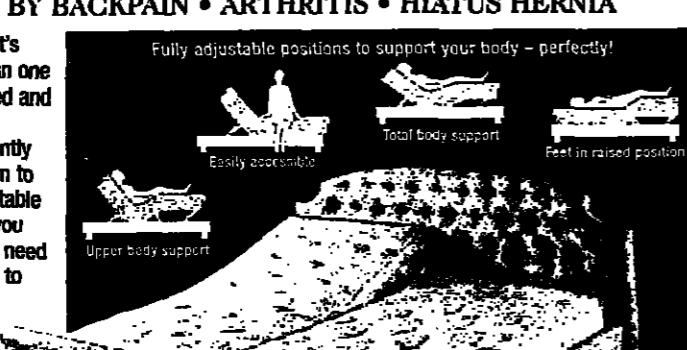
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SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 1996

How Toad  
got back  
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road in  
style

Page 5

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One man's problems began with an £11m lottery win. Jennai Cox and Kevin Eason on a chapter of accidents

## It could be you... unfortunately, it was



Karl Crompton and one of the Porsches that he bought with his winnings. His current personal transport is a 50cc moped borrowed from a friend until he is back on two legs again

**K**arl Crompton's luck on the road ran out the day he picked up his lottery cheque for £11 million. The money was his chance to indulge a lifelong passion for fast cars and motorbikes.

But as he nursed his battered and bruised body yesterday, Karl was contemplating an immediate future confined to taxis shuttling him back and forth between his luxurious home and the studios of Channel 4's *The Big Breakfast*, where he is a presenter.

Because each time he buys another exotic bike or high-powered car, something goes horribly wrong. Karl, 23, appears to be Britain's unluckiest lucky man every time he gets behind the wheel of a car or straddles a motorcycle.

Even he admits: "I don't know what happened to me over the past five months since I won the lottery. I have just become so accident-prone."

Today, the numbers for the 100th National Lottery will be drawn, a competition that has given dozens of people the money to buy the cars they always dreamt of. Karl was no different: as soon as he had picked up his cheque in May, he was in the showrooms.

But that was when the problems started:

• A motorcycling enthusiast, Karl's first buy was a Suzuki GSXR

750. Within hours of being delivered, it was smashed to bits and thrown into a hedge by vandals who caused hundreds of pounds worth of damage.

• As soon as the Suzuki was fixed, he took it to the Donington race track in the Midlands to enjoy the power of his new toy. "I hadn't ridden for a couple of years and I thought I could do with the practice," he says. He obviously could — because he crashed. "The bike just went from under me." He wasn't hurt, but the Suzuki was in a bad way... again.

• As a potential customer, he decided to give a Porsche 911 a test drive at Oulton Park in Cheshire. That's a 170mph 911... on a race track you guessed, it went wrong again. "The instructor was telling me to go faster and faster. He kept saying: 'Put your foot down.' Karl did and the car was soon going round the circuit but in ever-decreasing circles. Fortunately, car and driver emerged shaken but unharmed.

If that is not enough to bear, Karl has been forced to use a slightly more humble mode of personal transport to get him around his home town of Blackpool: a 50cc moped. He did not even have to dip into his £11 million fortune for his 30mph machine, simply borrowing it from a pal until he is back on two legs again. He says: "I can manage all right if I sit well back so I can balance my crutches. It is not quite so exciting — but at least I feel pretty safe. When I get back to normal, I'll have to drive more carefully — well, maybe for the first two weeks."

Those machines are a beautiful £17,500 Ducati 916SP motorcycle and a 155mph BMW M3 convertible, which he bought for £48,000 as a runabout, which both stand unused in the garage.

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Changing wheels: Karl with his Suzuki... and leaving hospital with a broken leg

PETER LOMAS

### NOTHING FANCY



Daniels: "It might have upset the neighbours"



Ryan, left: "They just stand in the garage"

**N**ot every lottery winner is in a Rolls-Royce showroom within minutes of getting the big prize. Some winners have more humble aspirations and choose everything from a scooter to a caravan.

Brian Daniels, who won £500,000, refused to splash out on anything exotic and decided to buy a new Ford Maverick and a Bailey Pageant Champagne caravan so he and wife Penny could tour Holland. "We didn't want a posh new car — it might have upset the neighbours," Penny says.

True love also knows no motoring bounds: Craig Bennett, 25, won £42,000 and bought his girlfriend, Sue Newman, a Piaggio Typhoon Sport 50cc scooter — then bought two for himself, abandoning his £200 banger for a Vespa TS 125cc and a P200 moped. Neil Hyatt, 19, was also unimpressed with his £100,000: he bought his little £5,000 Fiat Cinquecento, new fog lights, a body kit and a £2,500 car stereo system.

Cars though, were too painful to contemplate for Lee Ryan. He won £6.2 million but also got a conviction for handling stolen cars around the same time. He has now sold all the cars he bought with his fortune — including a £180,000 Ferrari Testarossa — to rid himself of bad memories and intends to take to the skies instead in helicopters. The 33-year-old says roads are too clogged to enjoy supercars anyway: "You lose so much money on them and half the time they just stand in the garage."

### LOTTERY GEAR

- Most popular cars with lottery winners are Mercedes, BMWs and Jaguars.
- After a new house, buying a car is the most popular luxury winners spend money on.
- Thirty million people play the lottery weekly, spending £6.7 billion over the first 100 weeks plus another £2.02 billion on scratch cards.
- There have been more than 120 million lottery wins — though most are for £10, enough for three gallons of petrol and a bit over to spend in the forecourt shop.
- Lottery grants have gone to the Museum of Transport in Basingstoke (£5.5 million), the National Motor Museum (£250,000) plus £70,000 for another museum in Scotland.



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What is the possible point of taking away a licence from some joyrider who simply ignores it in the first place?

## Frankly, they don't give a damn

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

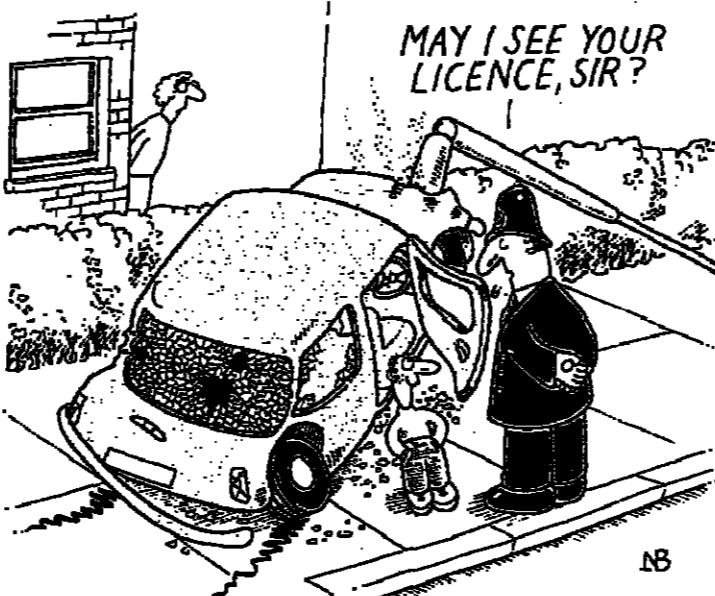
Two items of news and a television documentary this week have produced some interesting revelations about the British attitude to cars, crime and links between the two. The Government's proposal to take away the driving licences of people who commit burglaries sounds reasonable enough on first hearing, but turns into a nonsensical piece of populism after a minute's thought.

Part of the reason why the proposal is silly was to be found in a BBC documentary, *X Cars*, on Monday night. Another factor was raised in a news item on Tuesday, when the Police Complaints Authority called for a review of procedure in chasing stolen vehicles after a patrol car ran into the back of an innocent driver's vehicle during a chase, killing the driver.

An increasing number of burglaries are committed by teenagers, many of them too young to hold a driving licence. Therefore the courts would be taking away something that the burglars do not possess. One can reasonably assume that many of

the teenagers looting houses for video recorders, television sets and the like have with them a vehicle in which these items can be taken away — quite often, a stolen car.

Which brings me to *X Cars*. Here we saw frightening examples of the real, the underlying problem of crime, which is that the individuals who commit these crimes are completely devoid of any fear that they might be caught, or of what might happen to them when they are.



I do not know the details, but I do know that the police face a dilemma.

The speed of any car chase is dictated by the pursued car. Are the police to give up chasing criminals when there might be danger to innocent parties? If so, they are handing our streets over to joyriders and others; would their unhampered activities behind the wheel be less likely to lead to deaths?

All of this matters. We are paying higher insurance premiums. The owners of the parked cars we saw wrecked on TV by joyriders devoid of insurance will find themselves either paying for repairs themselves or having their premiums hiked. If caught, the joyrider gets probation.

Mr Howard may get a round of applause for saying that burglars will lose their licences, but the real problem is that the existing law is not enforced. A police superintendent pointed out this week that whereas the maximum sentence for burglary is 14 years in jail, the average sentence for a burglar committing his third offence is 18 months, of which he will serve nine.

The level of crime in this country is undoubtedly exaggerated by meaningless statistical comparisons, but to the extent that there is a crime explosion it certainly involves thefts of, and from, cars. Taking away a document from people who regard bureaucracy as a joke is merely painting rotten wood.

### AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

major roadworks continue, with no right turn into Donnington Lane. A144 Halesworth, Suffolk. Temporary lights on London Road for gas main work will cause delays. A41 Wolverhampton. Temporary lights on Bilton Road between Eagle Street and Chilington Street for canal bridge strengthening work.

● NORTH M6 Lancashire. Lane closures both ways for repair work between the M61 and M55 junctions will cause delays as traffic builds at peak periods. A679 Rose Grove, Burnley, Lancashire. Lane closures for water main work on Accrington Road at Liverpool Road junction will cause delays at peak periods, especially from the M65 at junction 9. A635 Barnsley. Doncaster Road closed outbound for resurfacing work, with diversions operating via the A61 Sheffield Road. Expect peak time delays.

M1 West Yorkshire. Long-term roadworks continue around the Leeds junction with lane and speed restrictions. Expect delays on the M1, M621 and Dewsbury Road.

● WALES M4 South Wales. Contraflow with traffic down to two lanes in both directions as major roadworks continue between the Bridgend and Llantrisant junctions.

A472 Pontypool. Contraflow between Pontypool and the Heron roundabout. Expect lengthy delays, especially from the A4042.

M4 Monmouthshire. Lane closures between Major and Newport junctions as major widening work continues. Expect regular rush hour delays.

A4067 Swansea. Contraflow with traffic down to a single lane at Ynystorgan near junction 45 of the M4, for construction work. Expect delays at peak times.

● SOUTH-WEST A39 Cornwall. Restrictions with temporary lights near Davidstow for resurfacing work.

A381 Teignmouth, Devon. Restrictions for roadworks between Salcombe Dip and Inverteign Drive.

M5 Gloucestershire. Contraflow between Bristol West and Clevedon junctions as major road works continue, with a 50mph limit across the Avonmouth Bridge.

A438 Newtown, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. Temporary lights outside the supermarket on for roadworks. A303 Yarnbury Hill, Wiltshire. Contraflow for major road works between Wylde and Winterbourne Stoke. Expect regular delays.

● MIDLANDS & EAST ANGLIA A500 Staffordshire.

Contraflow on the D-road between Taunton and Stoke-on-Trent as roadworks continue. Expect regular delays.

M6 Cheshire. Carrigeway reduced to three lanes in the widening work near the Thelwall Viaduct between the Lynn and Croft junctions.

A6 Lockington, Leicestershire. Contraflow from just north of the M1 junction 24 to Sawley Island (B6540) as

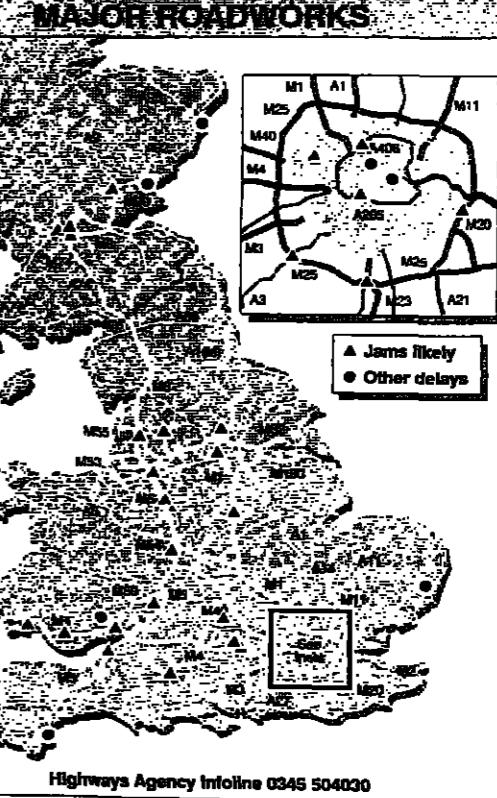
peak periods.

M77 Glasgow. No right turn at J23 from the M77 on to Drumbeak Road, with traffic having to continue on the M8 westbound to J24.

A74 Dumfries & Galloway. Traffic reduced to a single lane each way between Millbank and Paddyside for roadworks. Expect delays at peak periods.

A80 Near Muirhead, Lanarkshire. Contraflow for roadworks between Glasgow and Stirling starting at 8pm on Friday and finishing 6am on Monday. Expect delays.

A9 Perth. Restrictions in both directions between Perth and the Highland boundary at various locations.



### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Ford's milestone

FORD this week celebrated making its 250 millionth vehicle. At Dagenham in Essex, where the company makes the Fiesta, Geoff Hurst, England's 1966 World Cup hero, and boxer Frank Bruno watched the plant's 10 millionth car come off the line — a Fiesta 1.4 Ghia X, which will go into the company's heritage museum.

#### Veteran auction

AN AUCTION should guarantee even more productive years for a trio of veterans with a combined age of 274 years. Brooks is selling on October 15 at Olympia: a 1904 De Dion Bouton Model Y 10hp rear entrance tonneau; a Bayard 9hp two-seater from that year, and a 1906 Darracq 8/10hp two-seat tourer. The cars are among the oldest to come up for sale recently.

#### Racing selection

WHAT does a racing driver drive? Well, Jean Alesi, Benetton's top man, was spotted recently at P and A Wood, the classic Rolls-Royce specialists, browsing through a collection of Fifties and Sixties limousines.

#### Chairman's choice

HALF Britain's company chairmen drive a Jaguar, according to a survey by W.F. Caron, the motor industry consultants. Four in ten MDs also choose the British marque, which has been in ten Jaguar sales are to company fleets in this country, that is good news for a company voted Britain's top manufacturer this week in the Manufacturing Industry Achievement Awards.

## Addressing the problem

Your car insurance may cost a lot more than for another driver just like you. It depends on the street where you live, says Kevin Eason

Divers in some parts of Britain are condemned to paying insurance policies more than £280 a year higher than in other areas.

A survey by the AA shows huge regional differences in insurance costs, with motorists paying the price for living in danger cities where car crime is rife and the likelihood of accidents is higher.

While the driver of a second-hand Ford Escort in Liverpool has to find £302 for his annual comprehensive cover, the driver of the same car in Aberdeen will pay £129 for exactly the same policy. In fact, premiums have dropped in the six months since March by an average £29, a signal that those areas with the best records are enjoying steadily falling costs as insurers target the worst risks.

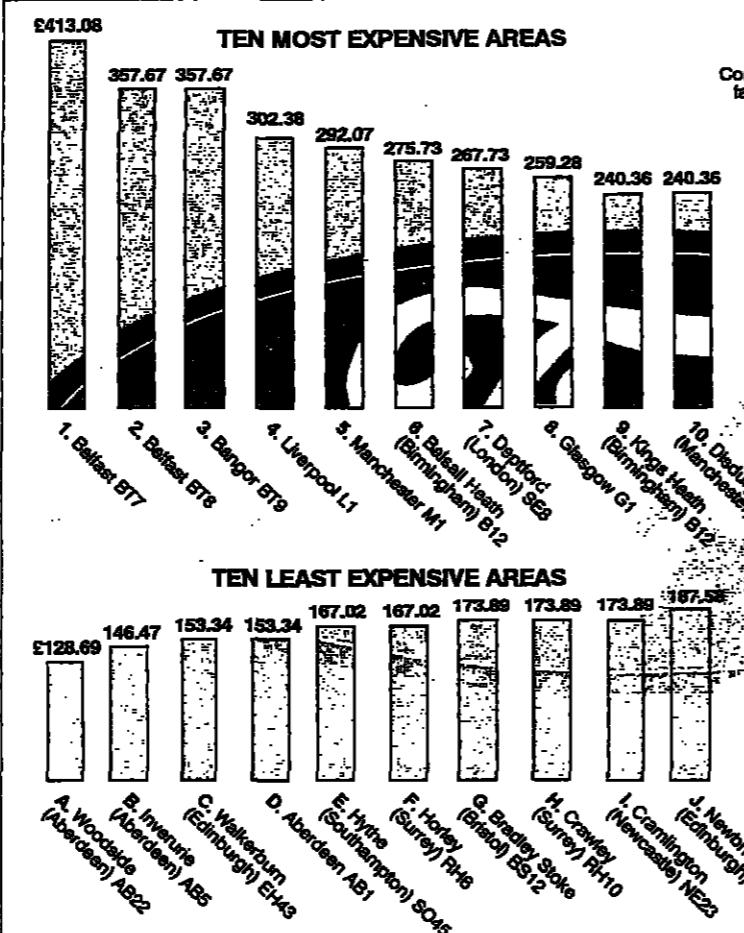
Six months ago, the gap between the top and bottom was £253; in September, it widened to £284. Mark Wood, managing director of AA Insurance, says: "Rates are polarising. High premiums are increasing, but, as our survey shows, insurance costs are falling in the most competitive areas of the market."

The AA checked on premium prices for 44 postcode areas around Britain and Northern Ireland to calculate the average cost for a typical couple: the driver would be a 37-year-old factory worker, who has held a licence since he was 18, which is clean, and has full no claims. His wife, aged 35, is named on the policy for the Escort 1.6LX, which is four years old and worth about £4,750. They cover 10,000 miles annually and have a free extension of cover for foreign holidays.

Inevitably, Belfast and Banguard in Northern Ireland fill the top three slots for highest car insurance costs. Insuring the sample Escort would cost the AA's typical couple £413 for a fully comprehensive policy.

But Liverpool tops the league of mainland cities with premium prices up since March by £13-a-year. Manchester is not far behind with premiums costing typical couples £292 on average, an increase over March's costs of just £3.

The AA discovered that only 11 of the areas reviewed had suffered increased prices,



### HOW MUCH TO INSURE

Comprehensive rates for a 1992 Ford Escort 1.6LX driven by a factory worker aged 37, and his wife, with full claims bonus

Source: AA INSURANCE

Young, confident professionals take sales back to the booming Eighties

## High-class cars are on a Roll



Rolls-Royce buyers are prepared to pay extra for bespoke wood and leather interiors

The days of wine and Roll-Royce look as though they are on their way back, writes Kevin Eason. Sales of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars, some of the most expensive models on the market, are surging, giving an indication that good times are starting to roll, even if Britain is not yet boom.

Rolls-Royce says British sales are up 34 per cent in the first nine months of this year, not in itself an indicator of change for the better in the economy, but the figures show that someone, somewhere in the country is enjoying a return to the hedonistic days of the champagne-swilling 1980s.

At the bottom of the market, depression still reigns: retail sales to ordinary customers last month dipped 6.2 per cent,

a sign that registrations are still being bolstered by company car fleets.

At the top, Rolls-Royce sales have jumped to 555 cars, even though it retains models priced between £100,000 and £220,000.

Strangely, the cost of insuring a car in Wimbledon, home of tennis and the Womble, is the same as for Newcastle, one of the worst areas in Britain for car crime. Although down by £49, drivers in Wimbledon are still paying an average £210, exactly like those in Central Newcastle, where premiums have dropped £37 to £210. Could this be anything to do with the influence of Vinnie Jones, Wimbledon FC's leg-biting defender?

lured to the colour scheme of

their choice, with bespoke wood and leather interiors costing £3,000 and more.

A company spokesman says:

"People immediately think of fat cats, but actually our customers are very different. We

tend to get orders today from the heads of small companies, such as Bloogs Engineering or Bloogs Computing."

Professionals and entrepreneurs whose confidence in the future is growing appear to be driving the resurgence of sales for cars, which cost as much as most people's houses.

Sales in what the motor industry calls the High Luxury Sector — which includes Rolls-Royce, expensive Mercedes, BMWs, Porsche, Daimler-Jaguar V12 limousines and Aston Martin — are ahead 16.6 per cent to 3,211 cars in the first nine months of this year, with almost every maker of high performance, sports and luxury models reporting significant rises.

Porsche is looking for its best year in Britain for six years, while Mercedes-Benz says that sales of its SL sports

cars, which retail at between £5,990 and £10,000, are up nearly 11 per cent, at more than 1,000, on the same time last year.

A Porsche spokesman says: "There are a lot of professional people, such as doctors and lawyers, buying, and it is not just cash. Lots of people are trading in and looking for finance."

That confidence at the top of the market is spreading through the industry too, underlined by the plethora of glamorous models arriving in the showrooms. During the recession, carmakers concentrated on functional vehicles at rock-bottom prices. While the pressure remains on prices, the floodgates have opened on launches of sports cars, coupes, people-movers and even GTIs, which have started to arrive in large numbers.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Ford's milestone

FORD this week celebrated making its 250 millionth vehicle. At Dagenham in Essex, where the company makes the Fiesta, Geoff Hurst, England's 1966 World Cup hero, and boxer Frank Bruno watched the plant's 10 millionth car come off the line — a Fiesta 1.4 Ghia X, which will go into the company's heritage museum.

#### Veteran auction

AN AUCTION should guarantee even more productive years for a trio of veterans with a combined age of 274 years. Brooks is selling on October 15 at Olympia: a 1904 De Dion Bouton Model Y 10hp rear entrance tonneau; a Bayard 9hp two-seater from that year, and a 1906 Darracq 8/10hp two-seat tourer. The cars are among the oldest to come up for sale recently.

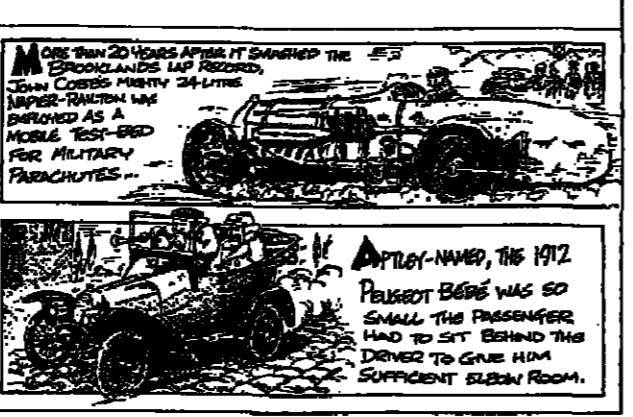
#### Racing selection

WHAT does a racing driver drive? Well, Jean Alesi, Benetton's top man, was spotted recently at P and A Wood, the classic Rolls-Royce specialists, browsing through a collection of Fifties and Sixties limousines.

#### Chairman's choice

HALF Britain's company chairmen drive a Jaguar, according to a survey by W.F. Caron, the motor industry consultants. Four in ten MDs also choose the British marque, which has been in ten Jaguar sales are to company fleets in this country, that is good news for a company voted Britain's top manufacturer this week in the Manufacturing Industry Achievement Awards.

### AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans



# Tomorrow has no wheels on it

Helen Mound

races fast  
forward 100  
years to see  
the 300mph car  
of the future

■ THIS IS "Concept 2096", the car experts claim will be on Britain's roads 100 years from now. It will travel at up to 300mph inches from the car in front without a driver at the controls or a single safety feature, on roads that don't have traffic lights or road signs.

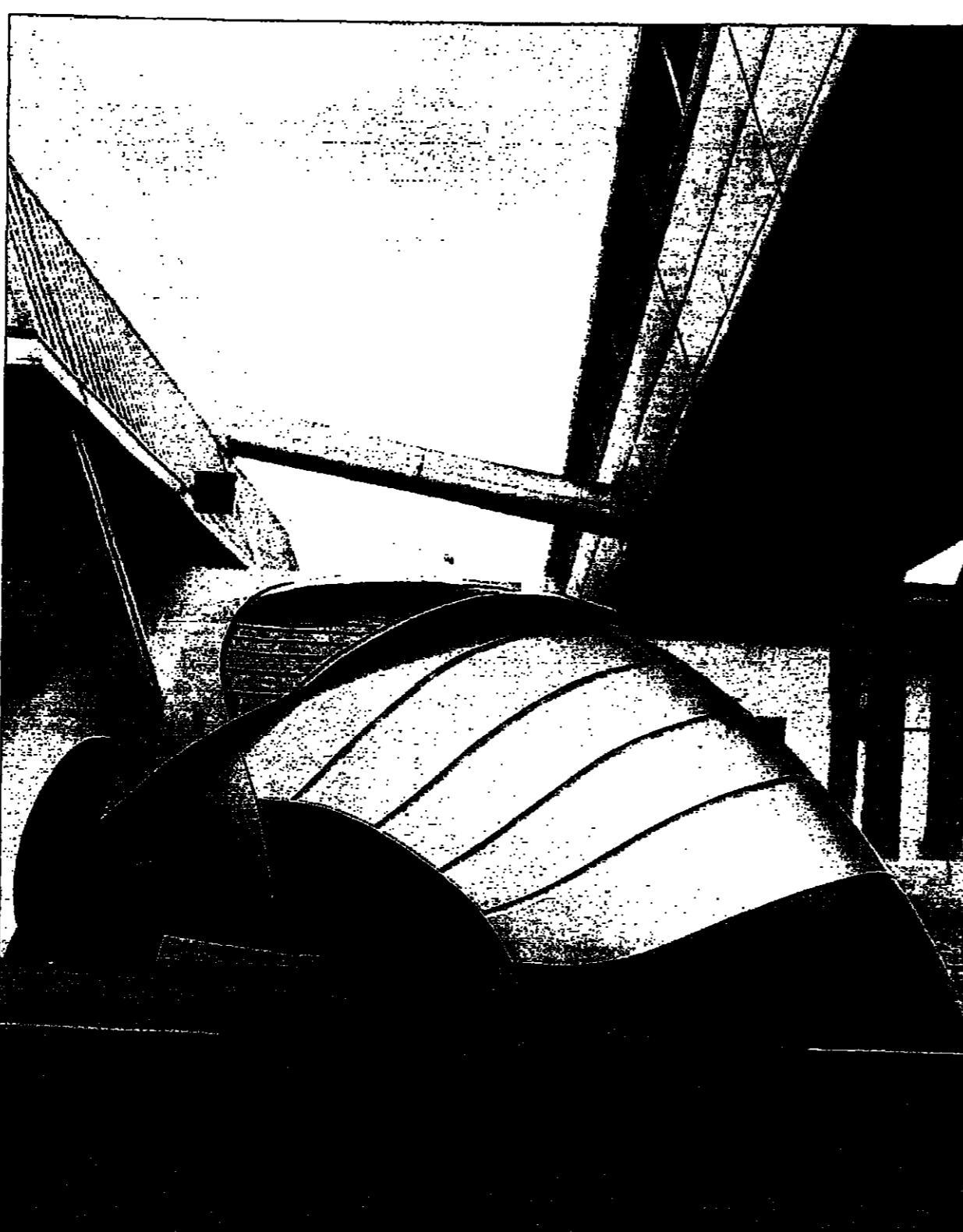
Concept 2096 was commissioned by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders to celebrate 100 years of the British motor industry and designed and produced by the final year automotive design students at Coventry University. The futuristic car will be unveiled at the British International Motor Show next week, alongside the 1898 Daimler, the first car produced in Britain.

Roger King, Director of Public Affairs at the SMMT, says: "Concept 2096 will be indicative of the dramatic changes we expect to occur in the next century."

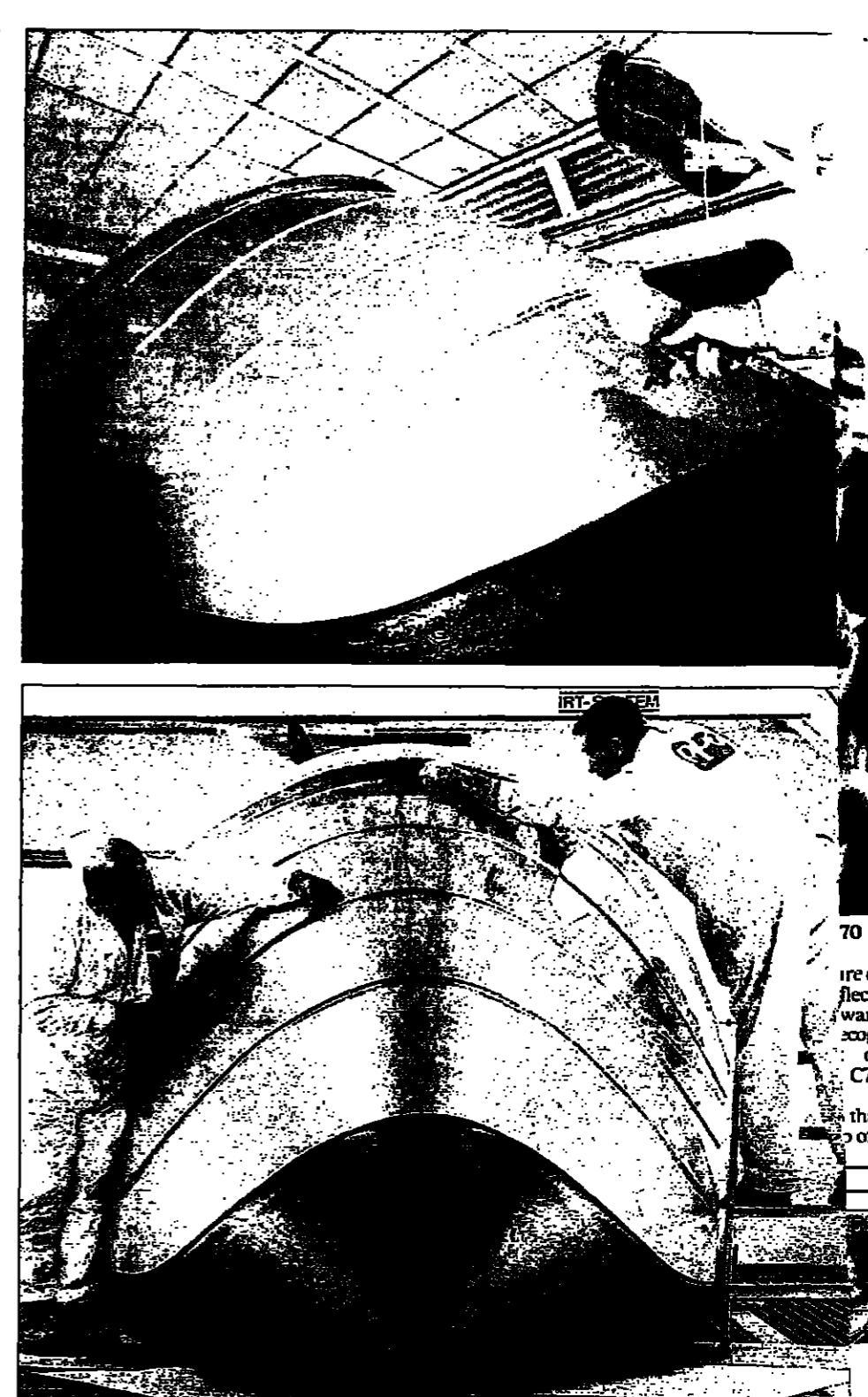
■ A DETAILED study for the year 2096 gave the design brief for the car. Research covered issues such as work patterns, transport systems, the environment and advancing technology. Results included a transport system that offered a single trip, daily, weekly and monthly rented vehicles; more affordable cars; driverless taxis and commercial traffic controlled by computers, which means traffic lights, speed limits and road signs were no longer needed while railway routes became part of the road system.

Concept 2096 is powered by an electric motor rechargeable on the move via "roadside senders" — systems, possibly using microwaves, firing bursts of energy at the vehicle as it sped past, rather than relying on the permanent contact with a third rail or overhead wires which trains use now.

The car has no wheels; speed, suspension, steering and braking all rely on a curious, malleable material (yet to be invented) called "slug drive". The motor would set



No steering wheel, no brakes, no lights, no crumple zones... in Concept 2096, controlled and powered by computers, passengers will just punch in their destination, then sit back and watch the video



Alan Cops on the prototype £10,000 sports car that could be on the road next year

## Concept in touch with reality

■ THIS lightweight sports car might look like one of those concepts specially made for motor shows, then consigned to some dusty back room.

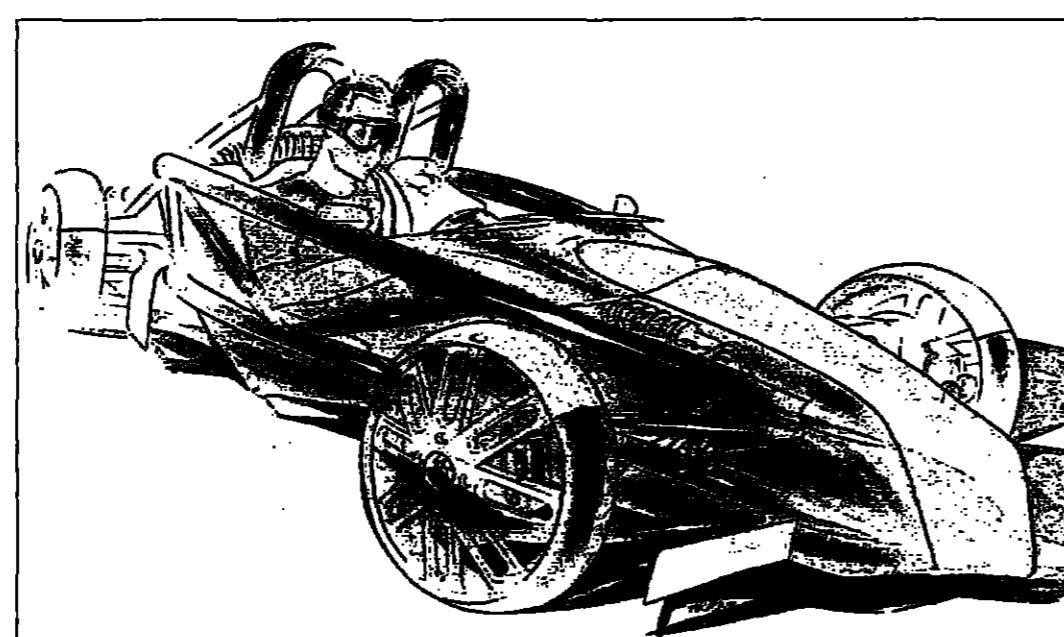
But the prototype of this rear-engined two-seater is destined to be on the road early next year: a sub-£10,000 sports car, weighing about 500kgs and designed for a production run of about 500 a year. It will be powered by Ford's economical and powerful Zetec-SE engine range and in 1.25-litre form will probably get to 60mph in about seven seconds and reach a maximum of 110mph.

"We're not looking for a high top speed but for spectacular acceleration that will make the car fun to drive yet cheap to run," says Samantha Porter, senior lecturer at Coventry University, where a team of students has put the car together for the Motor Show.

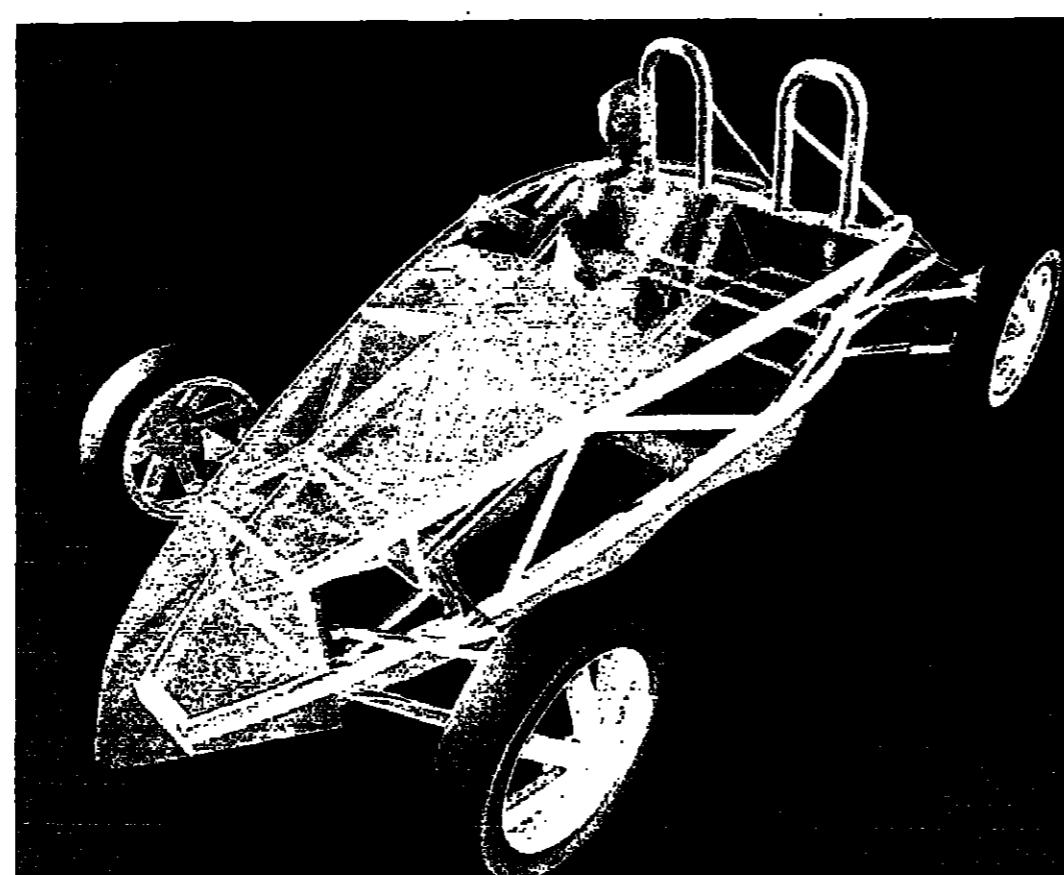
The basic construction is similar to a Formula Ford single seat racing car with a high-strength tubular steel frame, inboard suspension and a quick-ratio steering rack. The bodywork is made from a composite material and the interior, unlike many basic sports cars, should be waterproof.

"We wanted the project to be much more than another static concept. Many people have unsuccessfully tried to redefine the original Lotus 7 or the four-wheel motorbike concept. We think we've done that and more," says Simon Saunders, senior lecturer in transport design.

The car was built with £40,000 funding and co-operation from Ford, Michelin, British Steel and a host of automotive component makers with much of the design using virtual reality. "It demonstrates that industry and higher education can work together to produce designers of tomorrow," says Saunders.



Powered by Ford's Zetec-SE engine range, the car will probably get to 60mph in about seven seconds



Construction is similar to a Formula Ford single seat racing car with a high-strength tubular steel frame

Contenders line up in the race to be Britain's Car of the Year

## To the victors, the spoils; to the losers, the lemon

### AWARDS 1

■ KNIVES will be sharpening over some swanky dinners next week as the motor industry awards season gets under way. For the manufacturers, awards mean glory or ignominy, and there are more cars than ever under the microscope of the numerous judges this year.

Jaguar, Mercedes, Rover, Ford, Porsche, Toyota, Citroën, Peugeot, Volvo and Lotus are only a few of the companies that have launched important new models this year and which are desperate to capture the attention of buyers.

The monthly magazine, *Car*, is first off the blocks on Monday, followed on Tuesday night by *Autocar*, the weekly, which is throwing a champagne bash in Birmingham after press day at the British International Motor Show at the National Exhibition Centre.

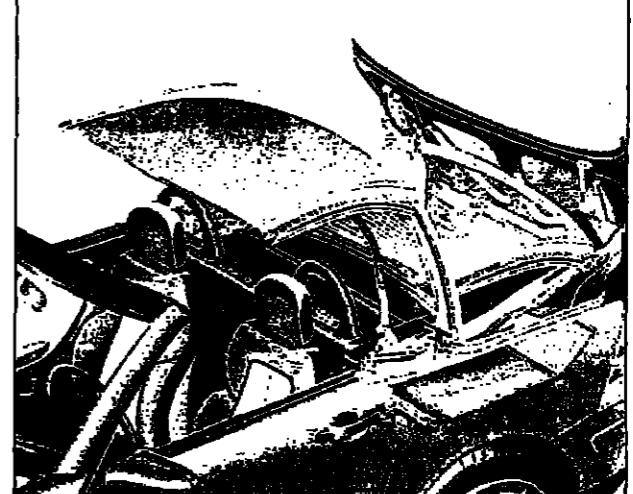
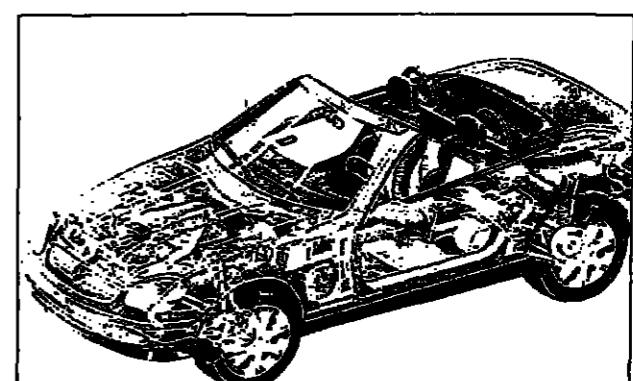
Peter Horbury, the Brit who runs Volvo's design studios, and Geoff Upex, responsible for Rover's lovely little 200 series, are in the frame for best designer awards along with Bruno Sacco, who designed the glamorous Mercedes SLK sports car, a model likely to figure highly in the competition for best technical innovation and which starts appearing in Britain early next year.

But which will be voted Best Car? Two new British models must surely be in the frame: Jaguar's XK8 for its all-round brilliance, and the Lotus Elise, the most spectacularly innovative car of the year.

But all eyes over the dinner plates will be for the award nobody wants: Lemon of the Year. Hints are that the Honda Legend or Toyota Paseo could get a mention.

### AWARDS 2

■ PEUGEOT has already chalked up an important victory in the annual awards round, winning the prize from The Caravan Club for the Towcar of the Year with its 406 GLX TD diesel. Judges studied 39 cars and decided the best petrol-driven model was the Citroën Xantia Turbo VSX Estate. Chrysler won the budget class for cars up to £12,500, with the newly-introduced Neon LE, with the category for models between £12,501 to £16,500 taken by Vauxhall's Astra 2.0 Sport. BMW's 528i was best luxury car and the Ford Maverick GLX five-door best all-terrain vehicle.



Mercedes SLK: its innovative hood mechanism has put it among the contenders for Best Car of the Year award

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95 (N) 80 2.0 SE Estate, Amethyst grey, Alloys, Roof rails, Sunroof	£16,995
93 (K) Coupe 2.8 Quattro Indigo blue, Sunroof, Walnut	£14,995
93 (L) 100 2.0 E Estate, Blue, sunroof	£11,995
95 (N) A4 1.6 Manual, Emerald green	£12,995
95 (M) A4 1.9 TDI SE, Laser red, Climate control	£17,995
95 (M) A4 2.6 SE, White	£19,995
96 (N) A4 1.8 SE, Emerald green, Climate control	£18,995
96 (N) A4 2.6 SE Auto, Quartz, Amethyst	£23,995
96 (N) A4 2.6 E Auto, Laser red, Comp alloys, Remote OTG, Pass airbag, Rear blind, Sports wheels/seats/ASR	£23,995
95 (N) A6 2.0E Saloon, Ruby red, Sunroof, Alloys	£16,995
95 (N) A6 SE Estate Automatic, Emerald green, Sunroof, Walnut, Sports seats, Alloy wheels	£23,995
95 (M) S6 Saloon, Emerald Green, black cloth, 6 speed manual, sports seats/wheel/adjustable, sports steering wheel, air bag, climate control, sunroof, 5,700 miles	£23,995
95 (N) Cabriolet 2.6 Manual, Mint blue, Sports seats, Alloy wheels	£23,995
95 (M) S6 Saloon, Emerald Green, black cloth, 6 speed manual, sports seats/wheel/adjustable, sports steering wheel, air bag, climate control, sunroof, 5,700 miles	£23,995
95 (N) Cabriolet 2.6 Manual, Mint blue, Sports seats, Alloy wheels	£23,995
95 (M) S6 Saloon, Emerald Green, black cloth, 6 speed manual, sports seats/wheel/adjustable, sports steering wheel, air bag, climate control, sunroof, 5,700 miles	£23,995
95 (N) Cabriolet 2.6 Manual, Mint blue, Sports seats, Alloy wheels	£23,995
94 (M) A4 1.8 Quattro, Amazon green, Cruise, Blinds, Elect heat seats front/rear, Through load, Comp alloys	£23,995
96 (N) A4 2.0 Quattro Sport, Volcano black, Cruise, Rear blinds, Servotronic, Solar sunroof, Remote lock, Sun roof leather	£23,995

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## Audi at Dovercourt

BATTERSEA

CHRYSLER 1.8, 2.0, 2.5, 2.8, 3.0, 3.2, 3.5, 3.8, 4.0, 4.2, 4.5, 4.7, 5.0, 5.2, 5.5, 5.7, 6.0, 6.3, 6.5, 6.7, 7.0, 7.2, 7.5, 7.8, 8.0, 8.2, 8.5, 8.7, 9.0, 9.2, 9.5, 9.8, 10.0, 10.2, 10.5, 10.8, 11.0, 11.2, 11.5, 11.8, 12.0, 12.2, 12.5, 12.8, 13.0, 13.2, 13.5, 13.8, 14.0, 14.2, 14.5, 14.8, 15.0, 15.2, 15.5, 15.8, 16.0, 16.2, 16.5, 16.8, 17.0, 17.2, 17.5, 17.8, 18.0, 18.2, 18.5, 18.8, 19.0, 19.2, 19.5, 19.8, 20.0, 20.2, 20.5, 20.8, 21.0, 21.2, 21.5, 21.8, 22.0, 22.2, 22.5, 22.8, 23.0, 23.2, 23.5, 23.8, 24.0, 24.2, 24.5, 24.8, 25.0, 25.2, 25.5, 25.8, 26.0, 26.2, 26.5, 26.8, 27.0, 27.2, 27.5, 27.8, 28.0, 28.2, 28.5, 28.8, 29.0, 29.2, 29.5, 29.8, 30.0, 30.2, 30.5, 30.8, 31.0, 31.2, 31.5, 31.8, 32.0, 32.2, 32.5, 32.8, 33.0, 33.2, 33.5, 33.8, 34.0, 34.2, 34.5, 34.8, 35.0, 35.2, 35.5, 35.8, 36.0, 36.2, 36.5, 36.8, 37.0, 37.2, 37.5, 37.8, 38.0, 38.2, 38.5, 38.8, 39.0, 39.2, 39.5, 39.8, 40.0, 40.2, 40.5, 40.8, 41.0, 41.2, 41.5, 41.8, 42.0, 42.2, 42.5, 42.8, 43.0, 43.2, 43.5, 43.8, 44.0, 44.2, 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Simon Templar is back — and in a sleek new coupé. Alan Copps reports

## Volvo is still the saintly one

**R**emember the Saint? Simon Templar, the smooth one with the handgun and the halo, who always got the girl and drove a racy little Volvo. He's back, he's still a heart-throb, he's still got a gun and a new girl — but he still drives a Volvo.

The character who launched Roger Moore on the path to global stardom as James Bond is revived next year in a new movie starring Val Kilmer which has just finished filming at Paramount studios in Hollywood. Visitors to next week's Birmingham Motor Show will be among the first to get a sneak preview of the film — on the Volvo stand, of course.

For this new film it's not just Kilmer who will be making his debut as the Saint or Elisabeth Shue as the woman who steals his heart. Moore's PI800 coupé now a much-loved classic, is replaced by Volvo's new sports coupé, the C70, a five-cylinder turbocharged little mover that will get from 0-60mph in seven seconds and has a top speed of 150mph.

Like all the best Hollywood stories, this has a British touch. The C70 follows a line of recent models that have done so much to bury the Swedish maker's reputation for being *boring* and *boxy*. Like them, it is the work of Peter Horbury, the company's British design chief, but unlike the others this is his own dream car.

"Volvo's always been very good at supplying the car you need. Now we will be producing the cars you want," he says. "The desirability factor is what we have concen-



Volvo C70: "Now we will be producing the cars you want"

trated on in this car. It's been a labour of love."

"In Hollywood there are beautiful film stars and handsome film stars. The Volvo 850 estate is the epitome of Swedish functionality. It's a handsome car, but we sell most of our cars outside Sweden. The C70 is a beautiful car."

The car will be arriving in Britain at just about the same time as the film, next spring, at a price of about £30,000. Unlike the two-seater PI800, it is a full four-seater, but it lacks nothing in performance, producing 240bhp from its 2.3-litre engine.

"I think it's great that the Saint is driving a Volvo again," says Horbury. "It's another step in the process of helping people recognise how much the Volvo has changed. I've had some people say to me 'It looks so good, but it's a

Volvo', I like to think it looks so good and it's a Volvo."

The C70 is one of the fastest design-to-production exercises in the company's history: 30 months from the original brief to the finished product. The brief was very simple: to create a Volvo sports car. Horbury would want for himself.

"We want to make Volvo a desirable specialty car as well as a reliable everyday car. I wouldn't like to do things quite so quickly on a mainstream product, but we are a very small design team — and not everybody has the chance to design their next company car," says Horbury.

What he has produced is a sleek coupé with a grille that marks it out instantly as a Volvo and yet looks completely different to anything the company has produced



Knights Templar



with his personalised PI800 and Hollywood's Val Kilmer with his 150mph turbocharged C70

recently. It will come in 17 new colours dreamt up by the design and promise a "no-spoke" approach to the wheels. Driven through the front wheel, the C70 will have a choice of a manual or four-speed automatic transmission with sport and winter settings.

The engineering is a joint venture between Volvo and the racing specialist TWR, which has already overseen the company's rise to prominence in the fiercely contested world of touring car racing. The chassis was developed by TWR to ensure that the handling lives up to the promise of

performance, while much of its technology comes from the successful 850.

Appropriately for a car with a touch of showbiz in its pedigree, the C70 will also feature one of the most sophisticated audio systems available, with ten speakers positioned around the cabin.

"People are much more aware of design now and the C70 reflects that," says Horbury. "We want Volvo to be as instantly recognisable as Carter, Rolex or Armani — I don't think the C70 will disappoint."

Volvo is obviously hoping that some of the halo effect will rub off.

## A dangerous Toad ahead

**O**ne of Britain's best-loved but most feared motoring pioneers is coming back to the road, writes Alan Copps. Look out for Mr Toad!

The vain animal with a passion for four-wheeled technology returns to the cinema screen played by Terry Jones and backed by an all-star British cast.

But as *The Wind in the Willows* was arguably the first story in which the car was a star, what Toad drives is important. It looks for all the world like a veteran, a rare Speedwell from the first decade of this century. So how does Jones manage to roar and bounce across fields with a full load of his cronies in such a delicate old machine?

It is, of course, a creation of the special effects department and under that rather handsome

### The original car fanatic returns

hand-built shell lurks a Land Rover chassis. "I don't think my heart would have stood it if they'd used a real car for those scenes," says John Geary, whose company, Motorhouse Hire, supplied most of the four-wheeled machinery seen in the film.

The special effects people did a marvellous job. I've driven the car. Because the filming was all done off-road it's not got an MoT. I certainly wouldn't like to drive it at much more than 40mph. The steering column had to be adapted so the driver sits bolt upright which makes the car feel rather strange."

The other cars featured include

a beautiful 1904 Berliet, which appears to be wrecked in the most spectacular stunt of the film, and a pair of 1904 French Hotchkisses. "The Berliet belongs to a friend of mine. It disappears round a corner, there's a sickening crash and all kinds of bits bounce back round the bend. It's all an illusion. Much to my relief the car is still in one piece," says Geary.

Apart from Jones as Toad, the film stars Eric Idle as Rat, Nicol Williamson as Badger, John Cleese as Toad's lawyer, Nigel Planer as a car salesman and Julia Sawalha as the jailer's daughter. In a distinct change from Kenneth Grahame's original, Antony Sher as Chief Weasel plots the building of a giant dog food factory on the riverbank.

*The Wind in the Willows* goes on general release on October 18.



Toadmobile: under the Land Rover chassis

## Where's the excitement?

**C**ary Grant and Pierce Brosnan both made a sports car famous, writes Eric Dymock. In *To Catch a Thief*, Grant and Grace Kelly race through the Riviera in a Sunbeam Alpine. In *Goldeneye*, Brosnan forsakes James Bond's Aston Martin for a BMW Z3.

Both open two-seaters were built on underpinnings of production saloons, the Alpine on the Sunbeam-Talbot 90, the BMW on the Compact 318i. The Sunbeam Alpine was aimed at North America. The BMW Z3 is made there. It is quick, lively, and handles well, the engine a smooth-revving four-cylinder mounted in front, drives the rear wheels as a sports car's should.

Top speed is not far short of



BMW Z3: unstrung for Bond

130mph, and the engine delivers its 140bhp with smoothness and polish.

Yet a sports car needs sensation, balance and excitement that somehow has been refined out of the Z3. It has cornering capacity to spare, but lacks a tactile element to make it a great sports car.

It arrives in Britain in the spring at under £20,000, but with Porsche unveiling the Boxster and Mercedes the SLK at the motor show, BMW is already planning a six-cylinder Z3.

## Hill on the brink of the mountain

**J**onathan Palmer on a grand prix battle of nerves

**T**he fact that the World Championship is going down to the wire at Suzuka tomorrow is great news for Formula One and all those who follow the sport. For Damon Hill, though, it has been three more long weeks to wait to know if he will be champion.

No doubt he will have been reflecting on his terminal Monza tyre hitting mistake, and wondering if he was too conservative at Estoril, without either he would have already won the title that his father Graham claimed in 1962 and 1968.

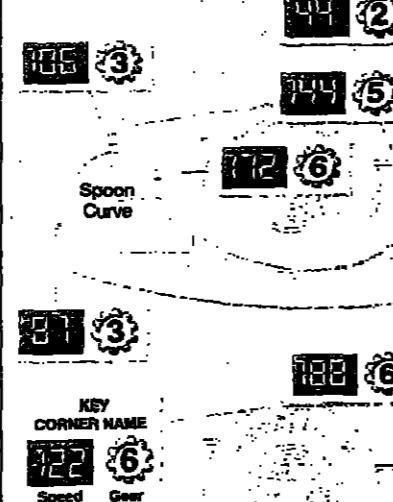
He is just one tantalising point away from being champion. After 15 grands prix, Hill has 87 points to the 78 of his Williams team mate Jacques Villeneuve.

Although the odds are stacked hugely in Hill's favour, it could yet all go horribly wrong. Villeneuve is likely to win the Japanese Grand Prix; he knows the circuit from Formula 3000 and may perform better in conditions could be both wet and dry. Hill's nightmare is failing to finish, which happened here last year, when he slithered off on a wet track twice, the second time for good.

This season he has made far fewer mistakes, and will not need to be pushing too hard, although a heavy deluge has caught out the best of them in the past. Prost, Senna and Schumacher included. Worrying conditions. Mechanical problems with his Williams Renault are equally unlikely — only twice has he so suffered this year, and Villeneuve not at all.

### A FLYING LAP OF SUZUKA

Circuit length: 3.640 miles/5.850km  
Laps: 53, 192.952 miles/315.527 km  
Lap Record: Nigel Mansell, 1m 40.546s  
130.332mph/209.799km



Some wonder if Williams and Renault might influence the result, through some apparently accidental finger trouble or electronic programming. Such thoughts should be dismissed; both parties value their integrity far higher than any desire to manipulate the World Championship. Williams and Renault simply want the best man to win, so much so that — unusually — a spare car is being taken for each driver.

I, like the vast majority of the country, will be thrilled when Hill surely clinches the title, but if he fails, I doubt he will ever have the chance again. At 36, he only has another two or three seasons in him and now seems to have set his destiny by his shock move to the TWR Arrows team for 1997. While this is undoubtedly a great coup for team boss Tom Walkinshaw, I am frankly

talked to. After all these options evaporated, Jordan remained Hill's most competitive opportunity, as a team solidly behind Williams, Ferrari, Benetton and McLaren and often in the top six.

With a strong Peugeot engine and Goodyear tyres, it would have been a team in which Hill could have used his experience and ability to take them the final furlong, picking up the occasional podium finish, and maybe even a win during 1997.

Jordan would have paid Hill £3.4 million for the first of a two-year contract. A sum that was topped, undoubtedly, by Walkinshaw's reputed £4.5m for a one-year deal. TWR Arrows have been right at the back of the field this year, just ahead of Minardi. They have in fact gone down-hill, apparently because all funds have been allocated to

newer ventures. They will have been through one or two changes of Tyres, and will be using a different one for the final race. The team's reputation is not great, and the logic of the decision is being debated by many.

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## Win a day on the track worth £165

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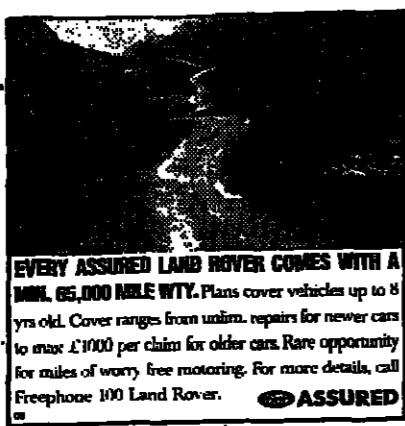
His team, Richie's



**CORNWALL**

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## CAR...TOONS



Anthea Turner tells Jonathan Crouch about her passion for MGs — in precisely the right shade of green

# Cinderella's new Pumpkin

## STEERING COLUMN

**A**nthea Turner is the woman we love to hate. Even though she is one of television's highest-paid presenters, she has suffered a torrid press. Yet, she has never pretended to be anything else than a Midlands girl-made-good. As a 20-year-old, she dreamt of owning an MG Midget but could not afford the £3,000 asking price. The Radio 1 girl turned GMTV presenter and original host of the National Lottery show reveals a long-time love affair with the MG marque.

## How did you learn to drive?

I put in for my test just after my 17th birthday and got a date almost immediately. Fortunately, my cousin, Tim, put me through a crash course in an old Land Rover. There weren't any crashes and my dad's theory was that if I was to have an accident in a car like that, I'd be fairly safe.

## What was your first car?

My parents' 1932 British Racing Green MG TB. Apparently, my carrycot just fitted into the back. Though they kept that car until quite recently, I never got behind the wheel — but I'd love to now. After I passed the test, I started off in Minis. After that, there was a Suzuki Jeep and two Volkswagen Golfs, a VW GTI and a navy blue convertible called "Pumpkin" because I had to play Cinderella in pantomime for five weeks to afford it.

## What car do you drive now, and why?

An MG 1.8i VVC which I bought earlier this year and christened "Pumpkin II". I decided from the outset it had to be British Racing Green, the colour my parents had on their car, but nothing like the shade of Green Rover uses now. When we were finalising the paintwork, I remember searching frantically around the room to show the man what the solid pre-war colour really looked like. He



Turner and MG: "I wanted to show the man what the pre-war colour really looked like. He ended up with a Russell Hobbs toaster"

ended up going away with a Russell Hobbs toaster which was near it but not quite. The result looks great.

## Do you enjoy driving?

Because of my filming commitments, I don't get much chance to drive. There's a car to take me into GMTV in the morning and I usually let the train take the strain on longer trips so I can read scripts, which means that when I do get to drive the MG, I adore it all the more.

## What is your dream car?

I can't imagine parting with Pumpkin II. Not even if I won the National Lottery.

## What is your most hated car?

Anything that looks boring — and most current cars do. The basic problem is this whole emphasis on aerodynamics which has wiped out the individuality of so many affordable models.

## What is your worst habit in a car?

Eating messy fruit, particularly when I'm driving, which inevitably means that the rotting remains end up littering the seats and smearing the carpets. It's really disgusting.

## What infuriates you about other drivers?

People who drive right up your

bumper. I'm not a slow driver — in fact, I have a heavy right foot — but I'm constantly amazed at other people's inability to understand a reasonable stopping distance.

## What is the most unusual thing you've done in your car?

Like most women, I apply my lipstick at the traffic lights. After all, what else is that vanity mirror for?

## Have you ever had points on your licence?

I did have up to nine for speeding and things like that, but it's clean at the moment, probably because I don't drive much.

## What do you listen to in the car?

Radio, cassettes, and compact discs. At the moment, I'm listening to Madonna, Blondie, and, most embarrassingly, Abba Gold — because I know all the words.

## If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Ban boring cars.

## What is your favourite car ad?

That Bodie and Doyle Nissan one, the "Professionals". And because my parents have a Renault Clio, the Nicole and Papa one sticks in my mind. Actually, I can't think of a car ad I don't like.

## DR DASHBOARD

## What to buy with that odd £7m

**Q** Mystic Meg predicts this week's lottery jackpot winner will be a man with hair, who lives in a house and has the letter E in his name. I am all of those, so what car should I buy with my £7 million?

**A** Probably better not to get your hopes up. Better to be surprised than disappointed, so don't trade in that battered Ford Escort yet.

**Q** Come on, you old misery. Let's dream a little. Give us some tips on what to buy with our winnings?

**A** Well, let's discount any kind of car that looks remotely sensible. If we have a few million pounds to play with, I insist the rules of the game are that all cars which are frugal, environmentally-friendly or have stickers in the back window saying "Baby on board" are automatically disqualified.

**Q** Eh? There is nothing left after all of those rules. But I suppose you're right. What will it be?

**A** Nothing so obvious as a Rolls-Royce or Bentley. Everyone assumes you would pay £220,000 for a Bentley Continental T or £210,000 for a Rolls limousine simply to show off because they are expensive. That also rules out a £640,000 McLaren F1.

**Q** You are not leaving us much. Such as what then?

**A** Discreet power is what we want here. No advertising that there is any big money in the driving seat. Just enough under the bonnet to get us where we need to go, very quickly and with enough glamour to impress — but no designer labels.

**Q** Where did the "we" slip in? These are my winnings. I just want advice.

**A** Quiet! You haven't won yet anyway. So, no Ferraris, Porsches or Aston on those grounds, and definitely no TVRs or Jaguars. BMWs too naff and off-rovers are passé. Housewives drive them, for heaven's sake. Mercedes are for Middle Eastern diplomats and everything else is too cheap to bother with when you have £7 million.

**Q** Sorry, have I missed the point? What am I going to buy with my lottery winnings?

**A** Look, it will only make you miserable. Here's an address you could try: Cheques payable to Dr Dashboard ...

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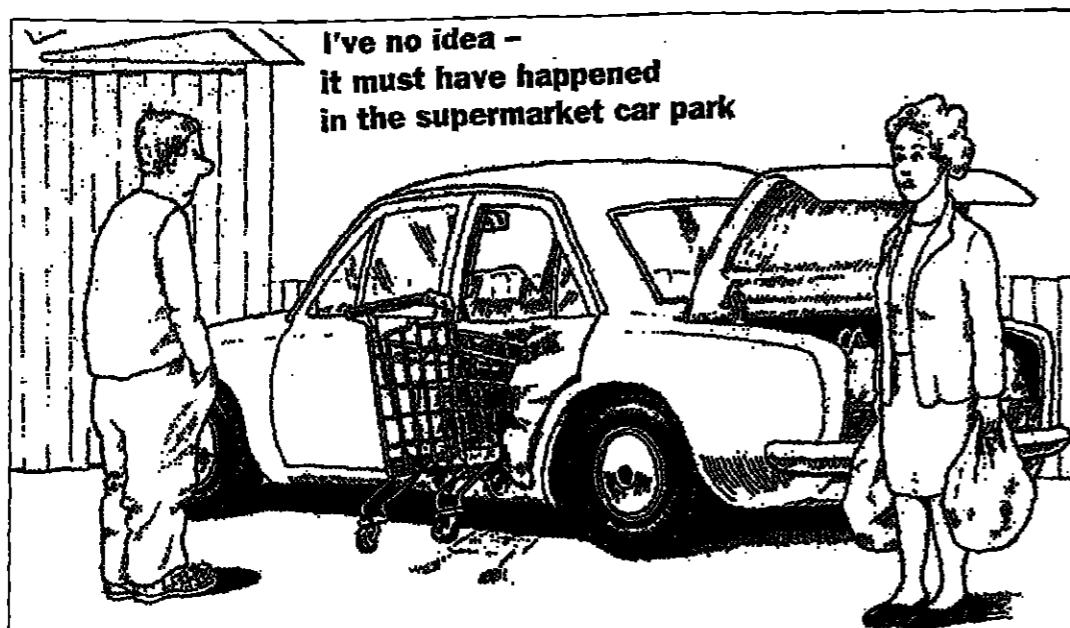
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## Ben Her finds a funny way to raise funds for the industry's charity



DES JENSON

**T**here's not much to make you laugh at the British International Motorshow. Announcing new cars, new factories, increased output and more jobs is a serious business, but there is one launch taking place that is designed to raise a giggle — and money for a good cause, writes Helen Mound.

*Driven to Laughter* is a book of motoring cartoons that goes on sale this week: the show in aid of the motoring industry's benevolent fund, BEN.

Initiated by a group of motoring industry executive's wives — who go by the name of "Ben Her" — the little book is full of gags scribbled by motoring journalists through the last century by artists and cartoonists such as Michael Turner and John Ditchfield.

BEN was founded in 1905 specialising in help and care for anyone who had worked in the motor, bicycle or motorcycle industries. It is considered one of the most highly regarded charities in the world, frequently praised for its efficiency and size. Unlike other good causes that have dozens of charities offering to help, the motor industry is catered for solely by BEN.

Set up three years ago by the wives and partners of some of the motoring industry's top brass, Ben Her holds fund-raising events throughout the year. These women are dedicated to their cause, prou-

ly admitting to shamelessly exploiting what standing they have in the industry in the interests of charity. In their first three years those exploits have raised an impressive £150,000.

Today BEN supports more than 6,000 families, all of whom have worked in various parts of the motor or allied industries (oil, petrol, components and vehicles, financial services and retail garages, distributors and motoring journalists).

Funds are raised through company and private support: BEN runs a payroll scheme among thousands of factory floor workers and the sale of virtually every car in Britain contributes 30p to the charity; many retailers add the same amount again.

This year BEN has spent £7million caring for people living in the community or in one of its four nursing homes. But the cost is growing. In 1985 it handled 103 new cases, last year more than 1,000 were considered.

As well as organising its bi-annual bash, at which anyone who's anyone in the motoring industry lets their hair down, and its annual luncheon when several hundred women gather for a rather boozey lunch, Ben Her is constantly seeking innovative ideas to help raise funds — such as the "collection of the world's greatest motorising cartoons".

Sheila Cooper, director of BEN's

Welfare Services, is responsible for taking the difficult decisions about who receives help from the funds. She supplies anything from wheelchairs and days out for sick children, to life-saving operations and new homes.

Every day she faces some of the saddest possible stories of personal crisis; you'll rarely meet a woman who is more capable of making you weep — usually just before she asks you for support or to make a contribution.

Like the well-connected ladies from Ben Her, Sheila firmly believes in exploiting her talents for a good cause.

"I'm constantly faced with heartache in this job, so I'm not afraid to pull a few heartstrings in return if it gets me what I need for the charity," she argues.

In her speech at this year's annual Ben Her luncheon, Sheila gave a candid demonstration of her work by reading a heart-wrenching letter written to her from a bereaved mother whom she had been helping.

The result was exactly what she had been hoping for — emptied purses and enthusiasm to help from all the guests.

Driven to Laughter goes on sale on October 15, published by Haymarket Motoring Publications, price £3.95. BEN, Motor & Allied Trades Benevolent Fund, 01344 20191.



Ladies who lunch: made up of wives and partners of top executives, Ben Her has raised £150,000 since it was founded three years ago

## Browse through the gallery that has artistic driving licence



DES JENSON

Paintings, prints and sculptures of the car as art now have a home... and you can visit it on the Internet. David Long reports

In New York a Jaguar E-Type has been put on display at the Museum of Modern Art. The Louvre did the same thing a while back with a Range Rover. BMW sealed a David Hockney 8 Series coupé into a Damien Hirst-style fish (or should that be cow?) tank and stuck it outside London's Royal Academy. And in Italy a few years ago the hillsides outside Florence saw a dozen classic Ferraris similarly displayed.

Yet stylist Peter Stevens, whose work includes the McLaren F1, Jaguar XJR-15 and Lotus Elan, insists his designs are not Art. Rather, he told *Autocar* readers, they are merely "an elegant solution to an engineering problem".

So much for the Car-As-Art debate, but what about the car *in* art? The car designer may not be a Degas, but increasingly people want not merely to drive his designs but to draw, etch, sketch, paint, model and sculpt them.

At one end of the scale, Britain's classic car magazines carry advertisements for artists who will paint a portrait of your Porsche from a photograph. At the other, the big auction houses are selling more automotive art, albeit under the banner of "automobilia" rather than of traditional fine art. Now, somewhere between, the capital has its first purely automotive art gallery.

By opting for the outer reaches of West London instead of the traditional art-heartland of Cork Street in the West End, the founders of Gibson Moore Fine Art have secured a huge space in which to display a wide range of works. Based in Chiswick, Jeremy Featherstone and John McLagan have more than 2,500 square feet devoted to things automotive.

These range from limited-edition prints and lithographs to original drawings and sketches, figurative sculpture and a number of large expressionist paintings.

As well as sponsoring the Federation of Automotive Artists' display at the Goodwood Festival of Speed, Gibson Moore (the name is derived from the two partners' middle names) represents several well-known artists including Dexter Brown, Jim Barber, Barry Rowe and Peter Miller. Prices range from under £300 for a pastel of Tazio Nuvolari's Auto Union to more than £5,500 for Dexter Brown's painting of a Ferrari 512 racing at Le Mans in 1972. Deliveries, approxi-

mately, are made using a Volvo 74 estate rather than a more conventional panel van.

The gallery's new home at Nevin House (named in memory of another much respected painter, Frederick "Paddy" Nevin, who died last year) means it is less than a mile off the M4. In addition, it is on the Internet, having recently gone on-line with its own web site in a bid to bring the collection to an even wider audience.

"Obviously, people who are able to visit us in person will get a much better idea of precisely what we have on show," says Jeremy. "However, as we sell paintings and sculpture all round the world, our new web site is an important feature for many of our clients. Gallery sites like these are becoming standard practice throughout the art world and we already have several buyers on our books who, before taking delivery of a new work, had seen their purchases only on a computer screen."

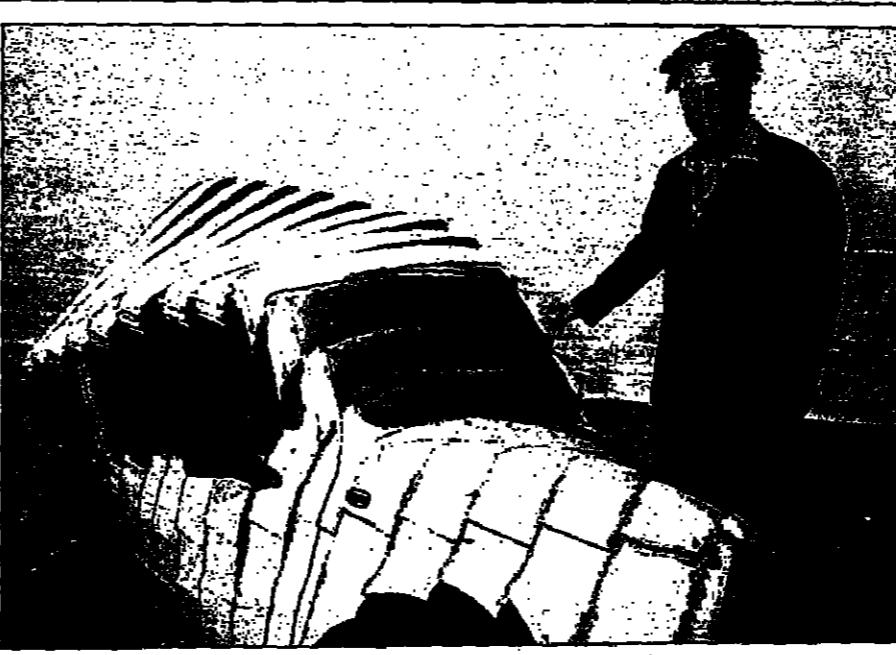
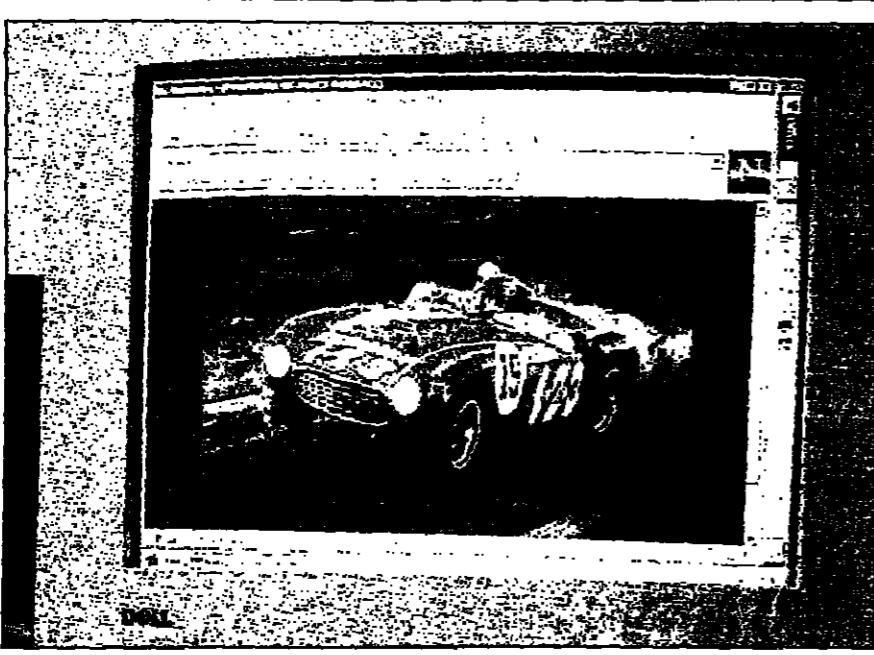
This electronic network means existing clients can view paintings and sculptures from their own homes and offices or retrieve information on the collection, forthcoming shows and individual artists.

"We hope new clients will be able to find us too," says Jeremy. "They will come across our collection as they browse through the Internet. Obviously some of them will be surfing through the art pages, but the way our web site is set up means that anyone selecting key words will be able to access any of our stock which is relevant to that particular word. Somebody looking up 'Brooklands' or 'Ferrari', for example, will find the appropriate pictures in the collection."

A number of artists, including Sibella Makower and Tony Iadicicco, have studios in the same building, but Gibson Moore's net connection means the partners can also source specific items or artist's work from around the world.

"Obviously we are close to the artists we have here," says Jeremy. "But communication via the Internet means we can also arrange commissions by the many artists whose work is held in the gallery."

Gibson Moore Fine Art is at Nevin House, Reynolds Rd, London W4 5AR. Tel: 081-987 0252. The web site can be found at <http://www.gibson-moore.com>



Jeremy Featherstone and web site display. left: "We already have buyers who, before taking delivery of a new work, had seen their purchases only on a computer screen"



# Catching up with the Joneses

Alan Copps on Nissan's £9m bid to make the Primera a success



Peugeot 406: heroic images, remembered more for its music

If you've fallen out of love with Renault's Nicole, are fed up with babies squawking about Vauxhall Astras, have seen enough Volvo whirlwinds to last a lifetime and already found Peugeot's hero inside yourself, it's time to meet Mr and Mrs Jones.

This good-looking, upwardly mobile couple, who sleep in satin sheets and live in a high-tech house of glass, are about to become as familiar as any characters from the wacky world of television car advertising, as is their backing track, *Lifed*, by the Lighthouse Family.

That last item is a clue to the car they will be advertising. Apart from being one of the most widely researched ads in recent times their commercial is the core of a £9 million campaign that unites two of the North-East's most celebrated exports, the Lighthouse Family and the Nissan Primera.

What this ad will be trying to pull off is one of the more sophisticated tricks in the world of marketing and branding which means so much when a new car is launched. If the new Primera is to succeed where its predecessor is admitted to have failed, then Brian Carolin, Nissan's marketing director, has to sell his car to an audience that consists mainly of salesmen.

The Primera is a good car (even my colleague, Kevin Eason, admits with reservations, on page 7). But it sells in a segment where the dominant players are the Ford Mondeo, Vauxhall Vectra and Peugeot 406 and where more than 80 per cent of all cars sold are to company drivers. Of those, the vast majority are "user choosers" people who may drive vast mileages on business and are allowed to choose any car within a set price range.

The old Primera was number nine on their list, not a success in anyone's terms. There was a reason for that: the old Primera appeared in late 1990. Until shortly before Nissan had been one of the great success stories of

**Viewers will find Mr and Mrs Jones difficult to escape**

the Thatcher decade, a glowing example of foreign investment funding British export success, its Sunderland factory a pioneer face of Britain's new industrial approach. But, just as the Primera appeared, it ran into a serious legal wrangle with its erstwhile distributor, Octav Botnar (one which he only managed to square with the Inland Revenue this week). Thus the Primera crept out rather than being launched, £3 million was spent over its first 18 months. It was a good car, but no one knew it was there.

With the new car, Carolin knows he's in the big league and the launch campaign will be spent within eight weeks. Viewers will find Mr and Mrs Jones difficult to escape. They have been chosen not just for their good looks but because, according to research, they match the aspirations of potential buyers and avoid the excessive imagery in rival publicity campaigns.

The kind of people who might look at a Primera include an awful lot in sales and marketing. We spent six months of customer clinics and focus groups trying to find out how our brand was perceived and what customers wanted to see in an ad," says Carolin. "The research clearly identified a high level of advertising literacy and a backlash against campaigns perceived as having little substance and too much imagery."

What they wanted apparently was something that identified the brand and had humour. Although they wanted to see what the car looked like, detailed information was relatively unimportant, music was seen as vital. This sophisticated audience apparently recognises that you can't say anything much about a technical specification in a minute-long film. Interestingly, this is the conclusion of an overwhelmingly male survey. The most recent survey of women's attitudes came up with a demand for more information.

The story of Mr and Mrs Jones is simple. They wake up and he says: "I think I'll drive to work."



Mr and Mrs Jones: a sophisticated audience wants humour rather than technical information in television advertising for cars

He is glimpsed at the wheel of his Primera speeding through fields and a modern cityscape, then he arrives at his office. It is a room in his home and his wife, now out of bed, is there to greet him with a knowing and very fetching smile over the computer terminal. Cue for the key phrase: It's a driver's car, so drive it.

In some ways, certainly in understated humour, it's a bit of a steal from the ads for the Renault Laguna, the most-admired according to Nissan's research, in which viewers are convinced that a woman passenger is a mistress, until the driver takes her to a party for his wife. The 406 ad is remembered more for its music than its male-dominated imagery, which many of those can-

vassed described as irrelevant and disturbing.

The degree of research that went into the ad, produced by TBWA, the agency which also came up with the "Professionals" for the Nissan Almera, shows just how vital image is in an age when most cars are reliable and evenly matched in performance. It will be deemed to have succeeded if it lifts Nissan into sixth spot in the segment, selling 127,000 a year.

But if that happens it might also have something to do with Nissan's pricing policy. The 1.6 GX Primera, expected to be the best seller will cost £13,450. That's £520 less than a Peugeot 406 1.8 LX, £45 less than a Ford Mondeo 1.6 LX and £575 less than a Vauxhall Vectra 1.6 LS.

## ACCELERATED SELLING

### No relief in sight from the motor show sales pitch

If you're heading for the NEC Motor Show, beware: your emotions are about to be shamelessly manipulated, writes Simon Hacker. You can't buy a car at the show, but you can be sold on one.

If you park and jump on a courtesy shuttle bus, Hyundai will already have ambushed you. In 1990, only 7,000 passers-by happened upon Hyundai's stand. Then they hit on "headrest promotions". In 1994, 30,000 people converged on the Korean badge.

Says exhibition promotions director Richard Farrow: "The front of the headrest cover is branded with a simple logo — but the back contains a pocket. When you're sitting there, with nothing to do for a couple of minutes, the desire to look inside the pocket becomes irresistible."

Open the pocket, and statistics prove that whatever lies inside will make a Lantra more magnetic than a Lexus, or even a Lamborghini.

### In case you slip up.



Daihatsu: a new conception in selling

If you judge such promotion a little in your face, at least the NEC has 1,200 cubicles at your convenience, where you can escape the razzmatazz. Make the most of an ad-free toilet stop, though: your minutes spent here are to become a prime promotion opportunity.

Convenience advertising is Farrow's new brainchild, too late for this year, but already booked for the next show. "The space on the back of a lavatory door and over each urinal is extremely valuable for getting a message across. Where else can you guarantee 100 per cent attention?"

First in the queue for the loo may be Daihatsu, whose campaign for the Hijet people carrier grabbed headlines with such unforgettables as: "It picks up five times more women than a Lamborghini".

Daihatsu's message gurus, Banks

Hoggins O'Shea, have already designed an ad for the Hijet which was affixed to Durex machines in a trial scheme for London pubs and wine bars.

"The wording," a spokesman says, "was to the effect that if things don't go as planned, a capacious family vehicle doesn't have to cost the earth."

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# And now, back to the studio

The Blairs have managed it but finding the perfect family portrait is a serious business

Families like mine don't have our portraits professionally done. We 1990s relaxed types like our snaps spontaneous. We're quite smug about that. Or we were until last week when the Blairs, of all people, released an official kids'n' sofa photograph. And they looked relaxed, quite 1990s. Clever Mr Blair and his family focus group.

Gently does it, though. We didn't even have formal pictures taken at our wedding, just friends snapping away all day. So having a family photo taken feels as if we're making a statement. Not having a spin doctor to hand, I asked Colin Harding, a curator at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television in Bradford, what the statement is.

The professionally-taken portrait is all about the importance you place on the family unit. People still go along to the photographic studio in their best clothes. This is the picture that goes on the wall. It's a different statement altogether from the snapshot," he says. Public, rather than intimate. That's probably why it didn't work when we set the timer on our Sigma SA 300 and tried DIY portraiture in the sitting room. We went for T-shirts and jeans — a genuine record of how we are after lunch, minus actual goblets of banana on baby's front and mother's shoulder.

Immediately several things became clear, which is more than can be said for the final pictures. Controlling three small children and a self-timer is almost impossible. Cherie Booth was wise to leave the dead casual clothes to the rest of the family. But inspired by the Blairs, we were determined to see this thing through. They used the London photographer Anthony Crickmay, the top name in ballet photography as well as a portrait taker. His rates are described as "by negotiation" and "a matter of discretion". If you wish to negotiate discreetly with Mr Crickmay's people ring 0171-378 1300 or 0171-381 4440.

The advice of the man himself on the secrets of taking a family portrait is simple: "Not wishing to be smart-alec about it, getting it in focus in the main thing. And the second is: bore them into relaxation." Easy when you know how.

Another top people's choice is the Harrods Portrait Studio (0171-730 1234). It costs £65 for a sitting, including 15-20 proofs, and £75 a head if you want a make-up artist. Prices for the picture range from £89 for a small, unframed desk portrait to £995 for a large, framed wall portrait bonded on canvas.

Being rather downmarket of new Labour, we went to our high street photographer, like generations of families before us. Edward Reeves in Lewes, Sussex, is said to be one of the oldest photographic studios in the country. Behind the shop front a long brick corridor takes you to the Victorian daylight studio via some



TOM REEVES



Family portraits by Edward Reeves, top, start at £39. Rates for the Blair version, left, are "negotiable". The at-home DIY shot, above

of the old props used over the past 140 years. In one corner was a neck rest — rather like a pair of kitchen tongs — to keep your head still during the long exposure times of the early days.

"People now are being much more relaxed and casual about it," said Tom Reeves, great grandson of Edward. Relaxed? Actually, only a mixture of glove puppets and chocolate promises was saving two-year-old Jack from the neck rest. Still, it certainly beat dashing about

between sofa and timer. We were smarter than at home, but not that much smarter. "Only about half our customers come in their Sunday best," Mr Reeves said. "The main thing is to wear what you're happy in." We left only £39 the lighter for eight prints. (For £20 more we could have had more poses, people and prints.)

Still making promises about chocolate, we next went round to our friend Colin and asked him to have a go. This made us even more relaxed — gin — and we felt too giggly for a really useful focus group.

So how did the three methods turn out? In the DIY shot there is a lurid, Frankenstein quality about the light. That's a risqué I'm wearing, not a smile. The strange blur at the bottom of the picture is the top of the table where the camera was resting.

In friend Colin's shot with the same camera, the door looks wonderful, the door knob ravishing.

Sadly the focus doesn't stretch to the people in the picture. The children seem afflicted by mass infant toothache.

The Tom Reeves studio shot is the best. It's all in focus. Our faces don't look toasted or bleached. We all seem human and we look like a group. Jack and Beth look sweet, even if Rosie looks pensive.

So we've done it. But would you vote for us?

JILL PARKIN

Ruth Gledhill joins a celebration of a modern composer's Requiem in a timeless setting

## Brompton's baroque splendour



Brompton Oratory, in the affluent heart of London, attracts 3,000 worshippers for ten Masses each Sunday

**REQUIEM AFTER-NAM** *dona eis, domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.* sang the choir above us, the organ and orchestra fashioning soft harmonies in a way that made it impossible to believe the dead could be anything other than eternally at rest, perpetual light shining upon them. This was a Requiem Mass, so-called after the first word of the introit, to honour the late parishioners and benefactors of the Brompton Oratory, an extraordinary Roman Catholic church at the heart of London's most affluent quarter, attracting 3,000 worshippers across ten Masses each Sunday. This was a rare opportunity to experience the unforgettable composition of Maurice Duruflé, who died as recently as 1986 but whose

timeless work could almost have been written in the era of the medieval Benedictine plainsong on which it is based. The women, many seated alone in the wooden pews, wore black lace mantillas, and the men were soberly dressed in black or grey which, combined with the Italian baroque style of the church, seemed to take us out of 20th century London and into an earlier age of Spain or Italy.

Although this was the modern Mass, the Oratory fathers in black and gold chasubles faced the high altar, with its unbleached candles, for most of the service. A few communicants joined in at times, such as in the confession, *mea culpa, mea maxima culpa*, but most of us just stood, listened and meditated as the music led us into and beyond the necessary thoughts of life and death. The first Oratory

was founded by St Philip Neri in Rome in the 16th century and there are now 70 houses and 500 priests living in these secular, as opposed to monastic, communities worldwide. The movement was brought here by Cardinal John Henry Newman after he went over to Rome in 1845. He founded an Oratory in Birmingham.

THE BROMPTON Oratory was founded by Father William Faber, the noted hymnwriter, who was received into the Catholic church a few weeks after Newman. He chose Brompton as the site despite reservations on the part of Newman, who thought the area a neighbourhood of second-rate gentry and second-rate shops.

The parish today has a deserved reputation for conservatism, being devoutly loyal to the Pope, to its Archbishop, Cardinal Basil Hume of

Westminster, and espousing in particular reverence for the Virgin Mary, an example set by St Philip, who used to say: "My sons, be devoted to the Madonna." Appropriately, for a Requiem, we were seated in the shadow of a full-length painting of Our Lady of Sorrows in the Seven Dolors Chapel, and the shadow deepened with the setting sun outside as the parish priest read out the names of parishioners who had died in the last year. We all remembered many others besides.

A baritone soloist in the *Domine Jesu Christe* and *Liber Me* sustained the mood of suspense and acceptance. Finally, in the *In Paradisum*, borrowed from the burial service, we offered a plea that all our late loved ones be led by the martyrs into paradise.

• The Brompton Oratory, London SW7 (0171-589 4911).

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LITURGY: Modern Mass from the Roman Missal but sung in Latin. Sensuous. ★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Transcendent ★★★★

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# THE TIMES

# Travel

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## Doing the Grand Tour at speed

### DAY ONE

WE ARE IN NAPLES, a party of six from London, about to embark on a Grand Tour of Italy and cover in five days the sites 18th-century gentlemen took at least six months to visit. We have not been carried over the Alps in chairs, nor been held in quarantine for two months. Air travel has put an end to all that. We also lack authenticity in our collective ignorance of the Latin texts that Grand Tourists used as their *uide mecum* to identify the places of antiquity. Nor do our phrase books contain such useful exhortations in Italian as, "Driver, whip on the horses, there are bandits behind us".

First stop is Pompeii, where we meet our English-speaking guide who is to take us on the statutory *Priapic* tour. Along with hundreds of other visitors we are shown paintings of phallic symbols, the brothels and private rooms of dubious purpose. There is, of course, much more to Pompeii than this. The site was discovered by accident in 1748 and became the archaeological preserve of the Bourbon kings of Naples.

Our 18th-century forebears would probably have been as fascinated as we were with the Roman gardens and orchards that have been replanted with what archaeologists have ascertained to be the original plants.

There are many more tours that Pompeii could offer, waiting to be devised. In the afternoon we head back to Naples and the Capodimonte Museum, which reopened last autumn after major redecoration and a rehang. Grand Tourists would have been more interested in the evening entertainments and boar hunts laid on by the Bourbons, in this their hunting lodge, than the great Farnese collection of paintings. Among them we admire works by Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli, Titian, El Greco and Breughel.

This evening we are treated to seats in the royal box at the San Carlo opera house, built in 1737, to see *La Traviata*. Fans and handkerchiefs are brought out by the audience in equal quantities to cope with the heat and the emotion.

### DAY TWO

LEAVING NAPLES at 9am we head up the motorway for Rome and arrive at the Colosseum by 12.30pm, in the searing heat. In a corner of this great ruin, the 18th-century antiquities dealer



Amalfi in the Bay of Naples much as the 18th-century Grand Tourists might have seen it while journeying from Rome to inspect the ruins of Pompeii, the archaeological preserve of the Bourbon kings of Naples

Thornas Jenkins had a flourishing business selling to Grand Tourists faked intaglios and cameos – the precursors of today's plastic souvenirs.

Our attempts to buy tickets to enter the Forum are thwarted by an official lack of change in the ticket office, though our eyes have unofficial evidence of the contrary. I muse on the fact that Grand Tourists would have found no fences or ticket offices. Their frustrations with Italian bureaucracy came in other forms.

In Piazza del Collegio Romano nearby, the Galleria Doria Pamphilj, which houses the excellent collection of paintings that this great Roman family opened to visitors more than 200 years ago, has been restored and rehung.

**Roman Empire.** After lunch, to the Capitoline Museums, opened in 1734 and the first public museum in Italy. These museums of antique sculpture were a must on the Grand Tour and the layout has hardly changed since the 18th century. The statue of *The Dying Gaul*, a barbarian captive with a rope round his neck, killed by a gladiator, has true classical nobility. The *Capitoline Venus*, about whose charms many Grand Tourists waxed lyrical, is roped off in her private rotunda.

In Piazza del Collegio Romano nearby, the Galleria Doria Pamphilj, which houses the excellent collection of paintings that this great Roman family opened to visitors more than 200 years ago, has been restored and rehung.

### DAY THREE

OFF TO TIVOLI, whose cool setting in the Tiburtini hills an hour (by road) outside Rome attracted Roman emperors and aspiring popes. At Hadrian's Villa we wander through the enormous expanse of ruins, marvelling at the amount of money this most cultivated of emperors must have poured into his pleasure complex. Our guide suggests that every unidentified building was a library. We later discover that Grand Tourists were equally baffled, but it is much more likely that everything was not a bath house was a dining room, or triclinium.

We find the spot where 18th-century architect Robert Adam sketched the ruins and see the stucco ceiling decoration that inspired some of his own designs. Many of the most famous classical statues that 18th-century collectors brought back to furnish their English country houses were found here, in a marsh.

The Villa d'Este that other pleasure garden of fountains and leafy alleys, built by Cardinal Ippolito d'Este in the 16th century, is on the edge of the modern town of Tivoli. This, too, is slowly sinking into ruination, the bases of the fountains encrusted with moss and some fountains no longer working. The statue of *Diana of the Ephesians*, which was repeatedly sketched in the 18th century, no longer has water spurting from her many breasts. Perhaps this is due to modern censorship. Enough plumes, jets and

### PLANNING THE GRAND TOUR

■ The Magic of Italy (sister company Italian Escapades), 227 Shepherd's Bush Road, London W6 7AS (reservations 0117-748 7575) offers a range of holidays to Italy including, from 1997, a ten-day Grand Tour of Rome, Florence, Venice and Verona by luxury coach. This costs £999, including flights into Rome and out of Venice and 4-star B&B accommodation.

A range of flexible two-night city breaks to Rome, Florence, Venice, Naples and Palermo with Italian Escapades are available from £261, including return flights.

■ In Naples, the author stayed at the Hotel Excelsior, via Partenope 48 (00 39 81 764011), single from £122 a night, double £182; in Rome, the Hotel Claridge, viale Liegi 62 (00 39 6841 9212), single from £105 a night, double £147. To stay in Keats's House in Rome, or Browning's Casa Guidi in Florence, contact the Landmark Trust on 01628 825925.

■ Visits to the opera are available as part of a package with the Magic of Italy or Italian Escapades. For individual bookings to the opera (without travel arrangements) call Liaisons Abroad on 0171-376 4020.

■ Books to read: *The Child of Pleasure* by G. D'Annunzio (Dedalus, £7.99, ISBN 0 946 62660 0); *Florence: The Biography of a City* by Christopher Hibbert (Penguin, £15, ISBN 0 140 16644 0); *Naples 44* by Norman Lewis (Eland, £8.99, ISBN 0 907 87145 3); *Italy: The Rough Guide* (£12.99, ISBN 0 864 42224 5).

fans of water still play, however, to evoke the appeal of the gardens to the Rococo artist Fragonard, whose sketch we can match to the original grotto.

We have nothing on record about Grand Tourists swimming in sulphur baths, but when our request is put to our hosts, the Tivoli tourist board, it is clearly eccentric enough to qualify as odd English behaviour in the 18th-century tradition. Only one of our party goes so far

as to scoop up the black, sulphurous slime floating on the water of the outdoor baths and plaster it on to his face in order to better absorb its health-giving properties.

### DAY FOUR

TO THE VATICAN museums and the magnificent collections of classical sculpture, which are the best in the world. After all, the Vatican controlled all archaeological excavations in the Papal

States in the 18th century and were entitled to their pick of one-third of the finds. In those days the long galleries in which they were (and still are) displayed were painted with scenes of Egypt, Greece or ancient Rome as appropriate to each statue. The beautiful *Sleeping Ariadne* was then thought to be Cleopatra and had a background of palm trees.

### DAY FIVE

FLORENCE. Grand Tourists never stayed long in Florence; they weren't much interested in medieval or Renaissance art. One sight that was *de rigueur* however was the classical sculpture belonging to the Medici in the Tribuna and galleries of the Uffizi. Though paintings on the walls of the round Tribuna have changed, the statues of *Venus de' Medici*, the two wrestlers and so on are still there. Zoffany painted a famous picture for Queen Charlotte of all the Grand Tourists in here admiring the art in 1772.

In the Brancacci chapel of the church of Santa Maria del Carmine, on the far side of the Arno, I see the frescoes by Masaccio, Masolino and Lippo Lippi in their recently restored state. In 1770, Thomas Patchy, an artist who painted some acerbic caricatures of Grand Tourists, published a volume containing 24 engravings after these beautifully painted scenes. The figure of Eve in the *Expulsion from the Garden of Eden* is modelled on the *Venus de' Medici*, underlining the classical inspiration of much Renaissance art.

I end my whistlestop Grand Tour in Casa Guidi, near the Pitti Palace where Robert and Elizabeth Brownings lived for 14 years from 1847, relics of the Grand Tour of the 18th century. The

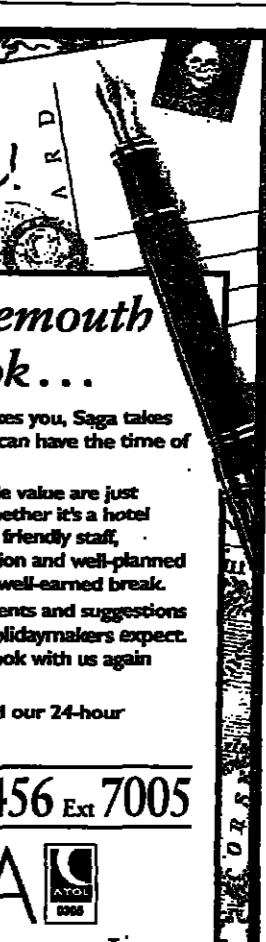
apartment is now owned by Eton College, but let out to visitors by the Landmark Trust. The furniture and decorations have been returned to as they were in the Brownings' day. I reflect that to do the Grand Tour properly in modern-day Italy, the very best solution would be to live there.

ISABEL CARLISLE

● The author was a guest of *Magic of Italy*.

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Malaysia and the Philippines: The privately-owned island of Pangkor Laut and idyllic Marina del Nido

# Life in the lapping waves of luxury

Paradise island" as a description can get a trifle overworked. It is applied to any small landmass with silver beaches, blue seas, bluer skies and a smattering of tropical forest. Not to mention endless sun, shade and luxury accommodation.

However, when applied to Pangkor Laut, a tiny island off the north west coast of Malaysia, the description is more than apt but with one marked difference — the sea is green. It changes from the palest jade to a deep, deep emerald as you reach the bay of that name. For Emerald Bay on the far side of the 300-acre island has to be one of the most perfect beaches in the world. Bound on three sides by towering rainforest, it is as dramatic as it is beautiful. It also has first-class resort service — loungers, parasols, mountains of fresh towels and attendants to bring you food and drink. You can take a jeep to the bay or take a 20-minute walk through the jungle.

From this beach in 1945 Col. Freddy Spencer Chapman, a British commando who had spent three years fighting behind Japanese lines, swam out to a waiting submarine and safety. (He wrote a book of his experience. *The Jungle is Neutral*, and Chapman's Bar on Emerald Bay is named after him. Later this year his widow will visit Pangkor Laut for the first time.

When Freddy Chapman and his fellow officer Major Richard Broome pitched up on Pangkor Laut it was uninhabited. Today this emerald speck on the edge of the Straits of Malacca is a privately-owned island with 184 rooms and suites — some set among gardens, some on the edge of the jungle while others are built kampung-style on stilts over the sea.

It also sports two further beaches, three swimming pools (the one at Royal Bay is a glamorous combination of dark blue tiles and black marble) tennis and squash courts, a gym and health centre and a water sports

## FACT FILE

■ The Malaysia Experience (0181-424 9548) offers five nights in Pangkor Laut and two nights in Kuala Lumpur from £395 per person in a hill villa and from £1,169 per person in a sea villa. The trip includes return flights from London to Kuala Lumpur on Malaysian Airlines.

■ Books to read: *The Jungle is Neutral*, by F. Spencer Chapman (1949, out of print); *They came to Malaya*, by J.M. Gullick, OUP £12.95 (ISBN 0 195 8 8604 6); *Malaysia and Singapore Handbook*, by Joshua Eliot, Trade and Travel £12.99 (ISBN 0 844 24909 2).

area, not to mention seven restaurants serving some of the finest food anywhere. Choose from Chinese, Thai, Japanese, Indian or Nonya (an indigenous Malay mix).

Peas on the lobster curry, savour a *fondue Chinoise*, enjoy a Malaysian fish-pot, a salad of lotus root or tiger prawns with ginger.

To work up an appetite take a trek through the rainforest which is almost two million years old. The resort has its own conservation specialist in Mr Yip, a knowledgeable and passionate man. He likens the destruction of the world's rainforests to having a library full of wonderful books which is being burned down before you can read them. He will take you on guided treks across the island pointing out plants, trees, birds and fungi as you go. He also arranges for iced towels and water at some halfway point.

Only 16 per cent of the island is taken up by the resort and a pledge has been made that no more than 20 per cent will ever be developed.

JO FOLEY

• The author was a guest of The Malaysia Experience.

oped — somehow you know that under Mr Yip's stewardship this promise will be kept. You do not have to leave the poolside to enjoy the wildlife. In the early morning and late afternoon troops of macaque monkeys swing out of the jungle to play along the beach and sniff around for titbits. During the day the silence is broken by yellow pied hornbills chomping on the fruits of the MacArthur's palms.

When you feel more energetic, a trip to the larger island of Pangkor is worth the effort and will take only 30 minutes by boat. It also gives you the opportunity to see the boats and ships which make the Straits one of the busiest waterways in the world — as well as one of the murkiest in places. After tourism the island's main industry is fishing and preserving anchovies. The boats go out in pairs, one to catch and one to cook and when they arrive back in port the fish are laid out to dry in the sun, glistening like sequins.

However, once you have bought your preserved anchovies, posted your cards, visited the snake farm, the 17th-century Dutch fort and admired the child-sized version of the Great Wall of China you will begin to hanker for paradise. It is time to return to your little house on stilts where the gentle lapping of the water soothes and calms. It is a sound impossible to tire of, unlike the never-ending strains of Pavarotti which are heard in most bars, restaurants and reception areas.

Since the world's greatest tenor gave a concert to celebrate the opening of Royal Bay two years ago his singing has lingered on. But who am I to carp? Should I be good enough to reach the other-worldly paradise I expect to hear him singing with the angels.

JO FOLEY

• The author was a guest of The Malaysia Experience.

I know what you're thinking. No sooner does a travel writer describe the perfect place, quite without flaw, than within a week the mob despoils it.

So at the Marina del Nido, in the Philippines' Palawan archipelago, the sand which now feels like fine talc between your toes will soon be littered by the mob with their cigarette ends and discarded suntan lotion bottles as they pack the beach shoulder to greasy shoulder.

Dozens, no, hundreds of shriekers will throng the clear-blue water through which you can see multi-coloured fish swimming through coral hills and valleys, where the yobos will drop disgusting things onto the coral and frighten away the fish.

At night, under a deep blue sky in which you can see every constellation you ever heard of, the riotous mob will cluster at the bar, swilling, baying, and being sick, shattering the night as you try to sleep in your bamboo bungalow with the fan circling slowly overhead, listening to the lizards chunking in the dark.

This is impossible. It cannot happen. There are only four perfect bungalows on the perfect sand at the edge of the perfect sea at Marina del Nido, and each one accommodates only four people. The bar is in a fifth building, a round pavilion open to the air, with a peaked roof. Like the bungalows it is made of bamboo and local timbers, strapped together, very elegant and open to every zephyr. There you eat or sit at the tiny bar, where a young island woman makes you drinks and offers you titbits to help them down.

A ll this is the brainchild of Regina Lim, a Filipina-Chinese architect of such illustrious lineage that her general grandfather, killed by the Japanese, is on the one thousand peso note.

Ms Lim, as elegant as her buildings, and who loves to dissect your grilled fish which was pulled out of the water a few hours earlier, imagined a place without phones or faxes — only a radio communicates with the world — and only a few hours of electricity, just enough to read by in the sonorous night before you fall asleep. You learn to love candles.

She wanted a quiet place,



There are only four bungalows at the Marina del Nido on Palawan Island. The marina has no telephones or fax machines and limited electricity

## Let's sing vivat Regina

snorkelling in coves where it would disturb the turtles. If you bring plastic and glass bottles, batteries, and lighters, you must take them with you when you leave.

The first impression of Marina del Nido is amazing. You will have flown for an hour — be sure you have a confirmed ticket — in a small plane from Manila to a big island in the Palawan archipelago which edges into the vast South China sea — Conrad country. You land on a dirt strip. You collect your single bag — bring few clothes — and walk across to a still green river under the tropical trees.

A motor launch then takes you down the river for three minutes to the sea where it plunges through the surf. Another three minutes and you clamber into a waiting banca, a long narrow double-outrigger. As you sit under an awning one of the crew whacks open a coconut for you to drink from.

An hour passes as you glide past islands, each with a strip of beach, coconut palms, and a soaring lime-

stone cliff. These little mountains, home to millions of bats and the swallows whose nests Chinese boil up for the slimy soup which costs a mandarin's ransom, dot the sea. At last, during the most spectacular sunset you ever saw, a particularly beautiful island appears. Malapacao. Just behind the extra-long white beach and in the shadow of a sway-backed mountain, sit four bamboo bungalows with circular porches, and a pavilion. A jetty points into the sea. This is Marina del Nido.

Once there, what is to do, besides eating the prawns, lobsters, grilled fish, roast pork, local chicken and fruit? You sway in the hammock slung on your own porch and read and sleep. Borrow a face mask and snorkel, walk across that silky sand, wade into the pell-mell water, swim ten strokes and when you are over the reef peer into the coral fish jungle.

At dusk, at six o'clock exactly, you watch one million fruit bats flutter out of their caves high overhead and stream across the sky pursued by sea-eagles which appear at 6.01 ready to swoop down and pick off their dinners. The remaining 999,993 bats swarm two miles over the sea to a mangrove swamp where batnip grows.

You can bring your own yacht here if you want — arrangements can be made for mooring and maintenance by trained personnel.

Or you can hire a *banca* outrigger for the day for a gentle cruise to other islands, other beaches, where lagoons conceal caves into which you crawl and gaze up at the cathedral ceilings. You lie on that beach, snorkel or swim, nap, and eat the picnic the crew lays out for you. If you drop a fragment of grilled chicken busy little hermit crabs scuttle up and trundle it away.

Sometimes Regina gives a party. There are flowers and candles on the tables which have been carried out of the pavilion onto the grass. By now you have become

slightly friendly with the other guests, from France, Italy, Britain, and Hong Kong.

Marina del Nido is a sheltered bay, so one or two have anchored their yachts off shore. You see tiny red lights across the glittering water. There is a roast pig. As you eat under the stars water laps nearby and fish leap and splash.

On late afternoons Rigor the chef may appear. He will already have taught you how to explore the coral reefs, to slither into caves. He may invite you onto the jetty to fish for squid. You catch one or two who fall for Rigor's wooden shrimp-lookalike lure with red glass eyes.

There is a frantic splash, a spurt of ink into the air and soon a foot-long thing from outer-space lies heaving on the jetty, translucent, creamy white, with huge bulging eyes in whose centres gleam golden disks. You eat these creatures deep fried that night. You can keep your calamari.

JONATHAN MIRSKY



The luxury villas at Coral Bay in Pangkor Laut are built on stilts over the sea

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### MARINA DEL NIDO FACT FILE

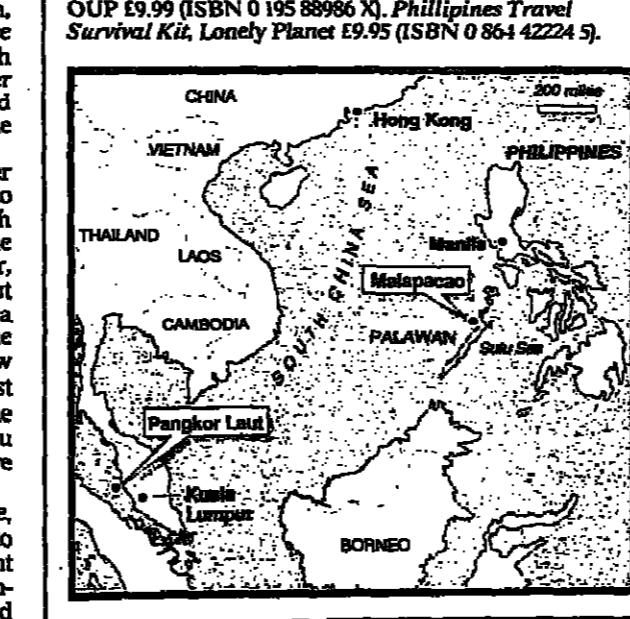
■ Philippine Airlines (01773 830951) fly from Heathrow to Manila (£530 return) and Manila to El Nido (£110 return). Do not leave the UK without a confirmed ticket for El Nido. Transfer from landing strip to Marina del Nido by outrigger, £14 round trip. Outrigger hire £60 per day and £30 per half day.

■ Accommodation on Marina del Nido costs £68 per night all year round (£16 for children). Three meals per day are £27 (£12 for children). To book bungalows telephone Manila 00 632 831487, fax 00 632 8319816.

■ Visas are required for more than a 21-day stay from the Philippine Tourist Board (0171-544 5445).

■ Environmental fund on island is £10 and all rates subject to 10 per cent service plus government taxes. No phone or fax on island, all communication by radio.

■ Books to read. The Travel Bookshop, 13 Blenheim Crescent, W11 suggests *The Ghosts of Manila*, by James Hamilton-Paterson, Vintage £6.99 (ISBN 0 09 29811 2), *Little Brown Brother*, by Leo Wolff, OUP £9.99 (ISBN 0 195 88986 X), *Philippines Travel Survival Kit*, Lonely Planet £9.95 (ISBN 0 864 42224 5).



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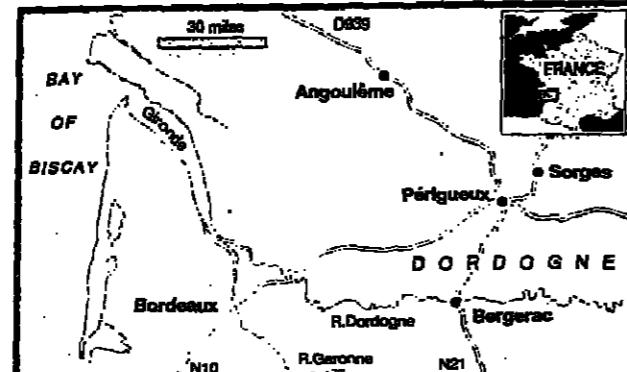


France: One man and his dog in the Périgord countryside lead hunters by the nose to the region's 'black gold'

# Truffles worth sniffing about

Like many city-dwellers, I suspect, I love the idea of 'hunbin', 'shootin' and 'fishin'', but I do have a spot of bother with the business end of such things. Saddle me up, draw me a peg and... do whatever it is that fishing people do, but please don't ask me to kill anything. Nothing ethical or moral about that; just a bad case of soft, southern, suburban squeamishness. You can go away and can kill things to your heart's content and, with the exception of the fox, I shall be delighted to share the end result with you at dinner. Just spare me the grisly details.

But now help is at hand for people like me who also enjoy an energetic day out in the countryside followed by a memorable dinner. You get to dress up (boots or wellingtons definitely, beret optional), you become master of a highly trained working dog and, best of all, not a single drop of blood is shed in the



pursuit of your fiendishly elusive quarry. In short, I have discovered the joys of truffle-hunting.

A lot of myths surround truffles, most of them invented by the French to put us foreigners off. But a bright, wintry morning spent in the Périgord countryside in the company of Henry Dessolas and his tireless, truffle-hunting dog, Kiki, will dispel most of them.

Truffles, or *Tuber melano-*

*spermum*, are not impossible to find by amateurs, just difficult. In a couple of hours, with the help of M Dessolas and his dog, we found five in the grounds of the aptly named Château des Truffes. To be precise, Kiki found four, which he signalled by pawing at the ground in a particular spot. M Dessolas would then dig down with a small pick-axe, sometimes successfully, sometimes not. Either way, Kiki got a piece of meat as reward. As his owner said, if Kiki indicated there was a truffle there, there probably was, but sometimes it was too deep to be got at.

The fifth truffle (one of two decent, golf-ball sized specimens we found) was spotted by M Dessolas while Kiki was pre-occupied with something more interesting. Suddenly, M Dessolas stopped, sniffed magnificently and dropped to his knees.

"Regardez les mouches," he whispered. We regarded and there, indeed, was a thin column of tell-tale flies rising from the soil. A couple of swings of his mini-pick axe, et voilà.

Proudly M Dessolas held the truffle aloft for us to inspect, and sniff. I inhaled deeply and immediately joined the long line of writers who have failed to come up with the right adjectives to describe the aroma of the truffle. "Earthy," I scribbled down rather feebly in my notebook, hoping to come up with something better later. I failed.

One of the old myths about truffle-hunting is the need for pigs to track them down. M Dessolas gave a shrug of

disgust when the subject was broached. Pigs were greedy, uncontrollable and had virtually gone out with the ark, he said. But then he recalled that he did know of one old peasant, who lived nearer the Dordogne, who still kept a truffle-hunting pig. "But he charges 2,000 francs [about £266] a session."

Another truffle myth is not so much a myth as a mystery. Truffles, the black gold of France, are expensive. But nobody seems to know how expensive. Recent quotes have ranged from £200 a kilo to almost £500 a kilo.

In search of the truth, I spent a sunny morning at the Saturday market in Périgueux. The stalls were stuffed with every bit of duck

and goose you could imagine (and several you might rather not) but of truffles, fresh truffles, there was no sign. It seemed we had missed the annual truffle market held nearby at Sorges by a week. For the moment, the whole of Périgord was fresh out of truffles, and the mystery of what they really cost remained.

But we had truffles.

Thanks to M Dessolas, Kiki and those obliging flies we had five, which brings me to an important bit of truffle-hunting etiquette.

The hunt has its own rules — especially when it comes to dividing the spoils.

Tradition has it that when the services of a truffle-hunter have been called on

the truffles found are divided equally between the land-owner and the truffle-hunter. It is, or was, tradition that evolved long before we British started to fly into Bordeaux to try our luck.

Generously, said he would be content with the three small truffles, perfect for flavouring some oil.

That left five of us to fight over two precious bits of fungi. At that point, I had a

vision of trying to explain to a Customs officer at Heathrow that the fragrant lumps of organic matter lurking in the bottom of that small polythene bag were a few grams of perfectly legal Périgord Gold. I waived my entitlement immediately.

To be honest, my generosity stemmed largely from the knowledge that we were about to lunch at Auberges des Truffes in Sorges, one of the best truffle restaurants in the region. Our own truffles spent the afternoon nestled

in the château's egg basket. The climax to the day was a perfect, if rather piggy, late supper of the best scrambled eggs I have ever tasted.

MATTHEW BOND

• The author was a guest of Crystal France.



Though pigs are normally associated with snouting for truffles, in the Périgord it's a dog's job to sniff out the well-hidden, precious and tasty tubers

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### FACT FILE

■ Crystal France (0181-390 3335) organises truffle-hunting weekends for a minimum of four people throughout the season, from early November to the end of March.

■ A three-night break (Fri-Mon) costs £399 per person, including flights, accommodation at the four-star Château des Truffes, car hire and a welcome hamper.

■ Gourmet Espionnage (0117-924 3617) offers truffle weekends for parties of eight between December 1996 and February 1997 at £756 per person, including flights, two nights in a three-star hotel and truffle dinner tastings.

■ Reading: the Travel Bookshop, 13 Blenheim Crescent, London W1, suggests *Truffles — the Black Diamond and Other Kinds*, by Jean Marie Rocchia (Avignon, £19.95, ISBN 2 879 23050 0); *Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes*, by R.L. Stevenson (OUP, £4.99, ISBN 0 192 82629 8); and *Cadogan Guide to South West France: Dordogne, Lot and*



Truffles: the welcome harvest of a day's hunting

*Bordeaux*, by Dana Facaros and Michael Pauls (Cadogan, £12.99, ISBN 0 947 75470 9).

■ The French Tourist Board, 0891 244123.



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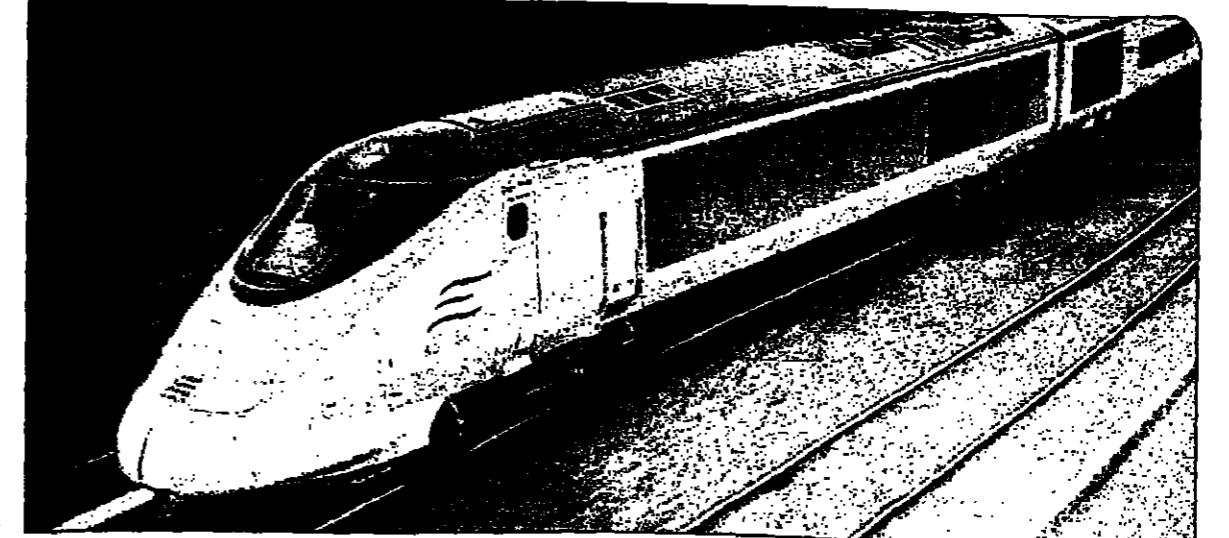
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Cruising: Expert advice from a celebrity wine taster, plus drinking in the stunning New Zealand scenery

# Antipodean delights, all bottled up



Marine Parade in Napier

I am going to make your tastebuds sing," said Jilly Goolden, star of BBC2's *Food and Drink* programme. "If they don't, I will have failed."

At the time it seemed a tall order. We were aboard the cruise ship *Marco Polo*, riding waves up to 50ft high and heading into winds gusting up to 80 knots.

"Now swirl. Now really fill your nose up and get as much into it as you can. I want to see a really good sniff. Now make your mouth into a cherub."

Four hundred of us obediently swirled, sniffed and cherubbed. Some of the American passengers stiffened as Goolden went on to extol the aesthetic advantages of the fixed cherubic grin over the "dog's bum", the pursed lips commonly used by connoisseurs.

She sniffed a 1994 Montana Marlborough Riesling. "Do you smell alpine flowers? And just a hint of petrol, petrol smell on the station forecourt. Delicious."

Australians would call Goolden a "beaut little bottler" — not a description of



One of the natural wonders of the world: Milford Sound, the 14 mile-long fiord dominated by the 5,000ft-high Mitre Peak. Despite helicopter trips for cruise passengers, it maintains a profound stillness

DALLAS JOHN HEATON

her knowledge of wine, but her gameness. A poor sailor, she pre-tasted all six wines and held the rocking stage until the tasting of the pudding wine, when she bolted for the ladies.

She was taking her own small party around the vineyards of New Zealand and Australia but she was also one of the celebrity lecturers who are a regular feature of the cruises.

The *Marco Polo* was cruising between two of the world's great harbours, Auckland and Sydney, via four other New Zealand ports, three Tasmanian and Melbourne.

The sturdy German-built ship started life as the *Alexander Pushkin*. Her interior has been stylishly converted to a 1930s look with widespread use of mirrored glass. The public rooms are elegant, particularly a small Art Deco-inspired bar off the casino. Cabins are comfortable rather than spectacular, with spacious bathrooms.

The European-style food is better than that available on some more expensive ships. At a typical dinner we could choose entrées from roast breast of turkey, lozenge of salmon, filet mignon and sauté of duckling, as well as a vegetarian menu.

Unusually for a cruise outside Europe, British passengers outnumbered the Americans. We were a mixed lot: surgeons and lawyers, teachers, small businessmen and the retired. Barbara, in early middle age, from Leicester, who was one of many passengers travelling alone, said: "I enjoy the friendliness of the ship. One advantage for me is that they charge only a 25 per cent premium for the sole use of a single cabin on the long-distance cruises."

Nervous cruise passengers in Wellington, our next port, should skip the Maritime Museum — where a model of the sinking of the *Titanic* sets the tone for an exhibition of disasters in the Cook Straits — and concentrate on Katherine Mansfield's house, an acute evocation of upper-middle-class New Zealand life at the turn of the century.

From the attractive small port of Picton, we sailed

through two of the world's natural wonders: the islands, bays and coves of the Marlborough Sounds and Milford Sound, the beautiful 14



world's most houseproud nation? We travelled along dozens of roads — the guides in true Antipodean fashion telling us the house price in each — without seeing an untidy garden.

The four-star *Marco Polo* aims to provide cruises at reasonable prices to destinations off the main tourist itinerary. So we called at the Western Bay of Plenty, which houses the port of Tauranga, rather than the Bay of Islands. It has one of the finest climates in the country and the journey to Rotorua and its geysers passes through acres of orchards and forests.

Napier, too, is off the overseas tourist track. It deserves to be better known. Much of the town was destroyed in 1931 in an earthquake and fire and comprehensively rebuilt in a lively Art Deco style, which includes the marine parade, the sculptures and the municipal gardens.

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we almost did not join them. The storm slowed us to five knots and Captain Erik Bjurstedt, who spent hours on the bridge, had time only to put into the small town of Devonport. This gave us a taste of a land of rolling countryside and square Georgian houses.

**M**elbourne, our guide told us, is famous for the three ts: fashion, finance and food. "And flies," added one passenger.

We tagged on to the Goolden party and tasted sauvignon blancs, chardonnays and cabernets at the Yering Station and Yarra Ridge wineries, overlooking the sweeping plains of the Yarra Valley. We sailed past the heads into Sydney as the sun rose behind the harbour bridge. Gradually the sails of the Opera House became distinct.

Even without being part of Goolden's expert group, the cruise had taught us a lot about — and, if possible, inspired a greater fondness for — Antipodean wines. And the taste buds? They were singing as if Dame Kiri Te Kanawa had teamed up with Dame Nellie Melba for the duet in *Costa fan Tutte* as we stepped on to Circular Quay.

JOHN GRIGSBY

● The author was the guest of Orient Lines and travelled to Auckland by Singapore Airlines.



Stirling Falls, found on South Island, New Zealand

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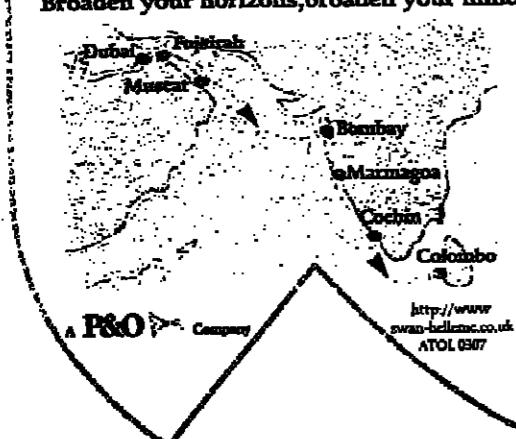
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■ Orient Lines (Europe, 38 Park Street, London W1Y 2PF (0171-409-2500). Singapore Airlines, 0181-747 0007.

■ A waiting list is open for a 21-day cruise-tour of Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand departing from Britain on December 28. Prices from £2,695.

■ Special offers on Far East cruises in 1997 include 15-day highlights of South East Asia, departing from Britain on March 25. Prices from £1,572 per person, including air fares and accommodation.

■ Reading the Travel Bookshop, 13 Blenheim Crescent, London W1L suggests *The Fatal Shore*, by Robert Hughes (Pan, £11.99, ISBN 0 330 29892 5); *The Collected Stories*, by Katherine Mansfield, (Constable, £7.50, ISBN 0 094 51240 X); and *Insight Guides: Australia* (£13.99, ISBN 9 624 21024 1), and *New Zealand* (£12.99, ISBN 9 624 21212 0).

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A tradition of classic cruising

**Britain: Bath, Edinburgh and Lincoln offer rich — and varying — rewards to visitors on a weekend break**

"OH, WHO CAN ever grow tired of Bath?" cried Catherine, the enraptured heroine of Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*. After 1702, when Queen Anne first visited the dozy little West Country spa, the whole of fashionable society fluttered in her wake. Gradually the squares and circles, crescents and colonnades of an elegant Georgian city grew up. By Jane Austen's era the honey-coloured limestone of its Palladian landscape formed the backdrop against which all the civilities and compliments of genteel life were exchanged between October and February every year.

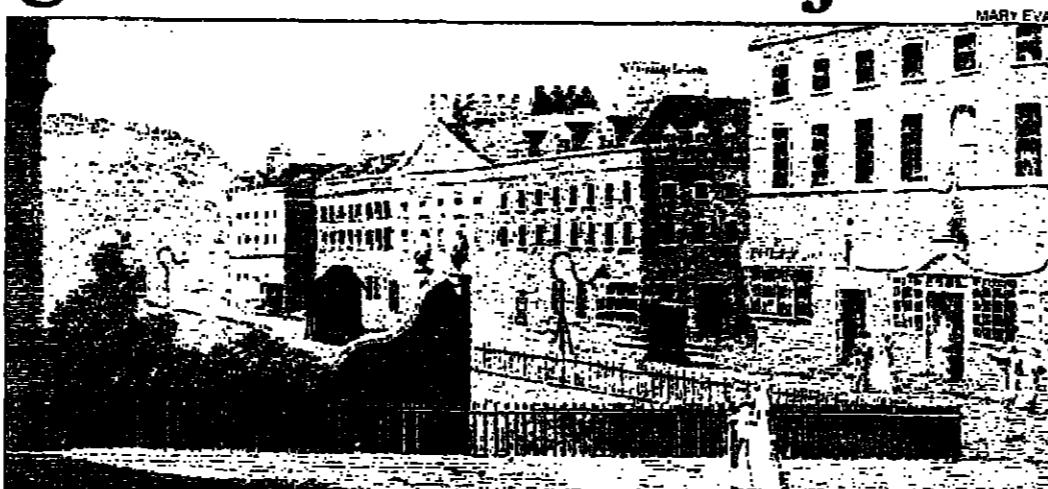
The flavour of an Austen-esque age still lingers in Bath — though not most pleasantly in a glass of the waters which taste, it has been said, "like warm flat irons". But the handsome chambers of the Grand Pump Room remain and the chandeliered Assembly Rooms where society used to meet daily to gamble and gossip.

Ponies and traps, though in a rather different mould to the smart phaetons which once trotted briskly down Great Pulteney Street, still trundle tourists round a city centre much of which, closed to traffic, is opened to a gallimaufry of street entertainers.

But in the absence of sedan chairs, for which the wide pavements and broad doorways of Bath are especially designed, the best way to see the city is on foot. It can be comfortably perambulated in a day.

Historically a tour should begin at the Roman baths, built almost 2,000 years ago when the marshes around the River Avon were first drained and their thermal springs channelled into a warm pool in which to relax. Bath Abbey, with its fan vaulting and the flaring clerestory windows which earned it the nickname of "the lantern of the West", stands nearby. The first stone of the cathedral was laid in 1499 when Bath was still a sleepy provincial town, visited only by the colicky and the crippled, but for the most part medieval architecture has been swept aside by the classical facades of the 17th and 18th centuries.

Pedestrians can stroll the broad streets, march up to the top of the Grand Old Duke of York's original hill and wander round the sweep of the Royal Crescent. No 1



Grace and favour, 1803: North Parade displays the Palladian architecture of Jane Austen's time

is preserved in period style — authentic even to the freshly whipped syllabub on the kitchen table. On the way down towards the city centre there is a Georgian garden with clipped box borders and topiary yews. It is worth a visit before meandering back, via Queen Square where Austen once

resided, to the Pump Room where traditional teas are served to the accompaniment of the Pump Room Trio, the oldest resident ensemble in England.

To stay at Lucknam Park, seven miles from Bath, is to continue to bask in an 18th-century style of life. A country

house hotel, built in 1720 and set in a 500-acre parkland, it is an ideal place from which to explore Wiltshire's quintessentially English countryside.

Lucknam's equestrian centre can provide elegant mounts and from the vantage point of the saddle the rider can gaze over

hedgerows to enjoy views that stretch from the Mendips to the White Horse Hills, or peep over garden walls into pocket-handkerchief-sized cottage gardens.

In summer the green tunnelled lanes, with their high banks frothing with cow parsley, the buttercupped meadows, and the beechwoods dusky with bluebells are equally well explored on foot. Within walking distance is Castle Combe, reputedly the prettiest village in England, with its grey limestone cottages with mulioned windows and gabled roofs.

From time to time the village is mobbed by fevered film crews scrabbling for the air of Austen-esque authenticity. But on a quiet evening, the old White Hart Inn opposite the ancient market cross is a perfect place to pause for a while and breathe in the atmosphere of a more tranquil rural age.

**RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON**  
• The author was a guest of Lucknam Park.

■ Lucknam Park, Colerne, Wiltshire SN14 8AZ (01225 742777). Singles from £120, doubles from £170.

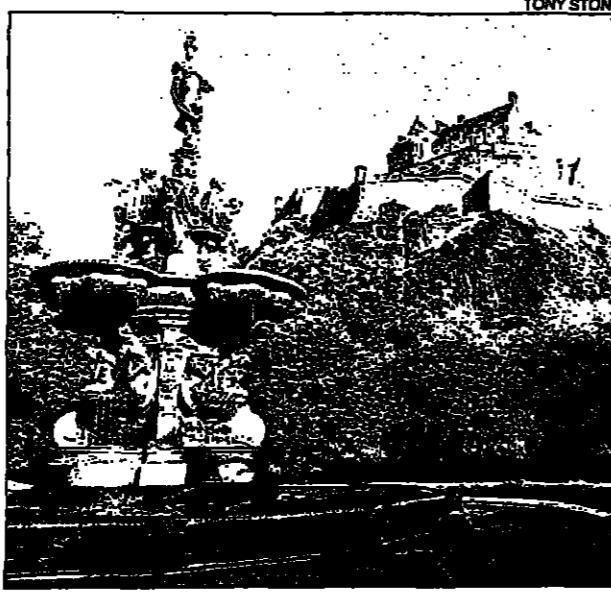
■ Other places to stay: At the Sign of the Angel, Lacock (01249 732030). Single from £50, double £70. Weekend and midweek breaks from £50 with dinner, bed and breakfast. Priory Steps, Bradford-on-Avon (01225 862230) from £40 single, £70 double. Set dinner £10.

■ Places to visit from Bath: Sheldon Manor (three miles away): Wiltshire's oldest manor house, lived in since 1282. Open from Easter (01249 653120). Corsham Court (six miles): Elizabethan house with picture gallery and superb gardens. Open all year (01249 701610).

■ Places to visit from Lucknam Park: Bowood House (seven miles), 18th-century architecture with a park laid out by Capability Brown. Open until Nov 3 (01249 812102). Lacock (eight miles), National Trust village of timbered 16th-century cottages and ancient abbey. Open until Nov 3, then from March.

■ See also box below.

## Affecting views and sound effects



Edinburgh Castle, perched on top of a volcanic crag

Halfway to Edinburgh on the InterCity train, a Scotswoman sitting across the aisle inquired if this was our first visit. Yes, it was. "Ah well, hen, you're in for a treat then," came the confident reply. And so it proved.

If you live in the Home Counties and your natural inclination is always to head south rather than north, you really need an incentive to go to Edinburgh. Ours was the offer of a university place for my daughter with an invitation to the English department's open day. Thus spurred, we treated ourselves to two foot-slogging days of sightseeing from our comfortable base at the Calverley Hotel on Princes Street.

The first trick for novices is to realise that the High Street and the Royal Mile are, for the most part, one and the same and both names are used — one street map did not have the words Royal Mile on it at all, occasioning some head-scratching. The second is to appreciate that the terrain is hilly and mostly cobbled — not for the infirm or ill-shod.

The rewards for our labours were, however, literally breathtaking. With unseasonal blue skies and sunshine over our heads, we strolled down Princes Street in the lee of the mighty volcanic crag which carries the castle on its crest, across the crocus-filled gardens and up to the Royal Mile. Friends had recommended the Camera Obscura on Castlehill as an unmissable attraction; this turned out to be a wonderful low-technology delight, completely baffling the Japanese students who mounted the stairs with us to see it. Across the way the Scotch Whisky Heritage Centre beckoned with the promise of a wee dram, but so did the castle with the promise of rich history, and I can always have a wee dram at home, I figured.

The castle offers the thrill

### EDINBURGH FILE

■ Highlife Breaks, PO Box 139, Leeds LS2 7TE (freephone 0800 700400), offers inclusive holidays throughout the UK by air, rail or coach. It has a choice of three, four or five-star hotels in Edinburgh. The cost per person for standard return rail travel from southeast England plus one night's B&B starts at £94 off-peak in a three-star hotel. An extra night costs £38.

■ The Castle (0131-225 1012) is open every day from 9.30am, last entry 5.15pm Oct 1-March 31. Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and January 1 and 2. Adults £5.50, children (5-15) £1.50. Try to time your visit for lunchtime to catch the firing of the One O'Clock Gun (every day except Sunday) from Mills Mount Battery — not for those of a nervous disposition.

■ The Witchery Tour takes place every evening (0131-225 6745, advance booking essential). It costs £5, lasts an hour and a quarter and meets outside The Witchery.

■ Camera Obscura (0131-226 3709), open every day except December 25, 9.30am-6pm April-October, 10am-5pm November-March. Last admission is 45 minutes before closing. Presentations take place at the top of the tower usually on the hour and every 15 minutes thereafter. Adults £3.40, children £1.75.

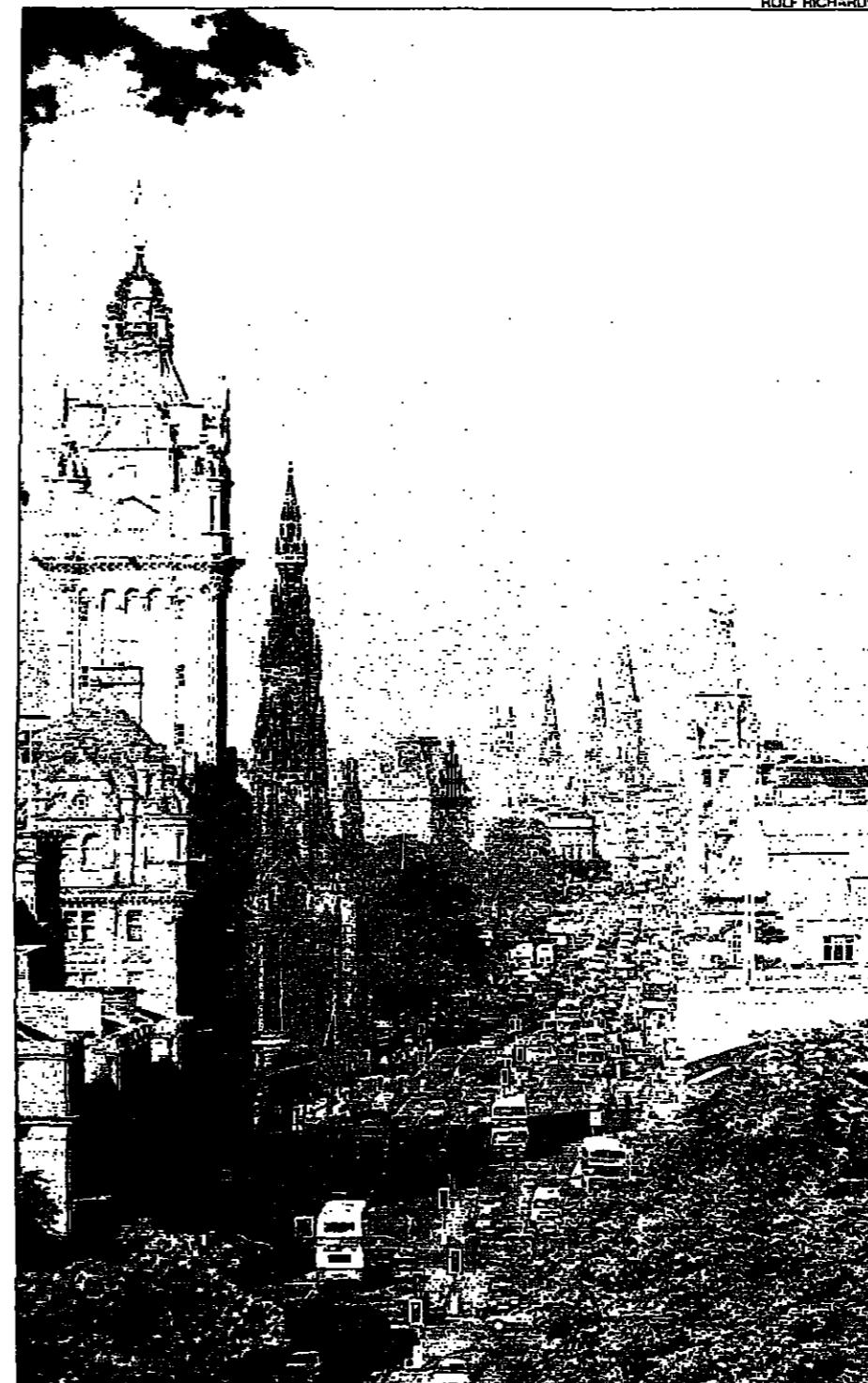
■ See also City Breaks box, right.

dark alleys and down steep steps, pausing to point out the site of a hanging or the body-snatching activities of Burke and Hare. His partner in crime was an out-of-work actor who popped up in a variety of thin disguises — peg-leg pirate, fishwife with bucket of slops, mad Scoubie-Doo-soundalike monk — at strategic points to scare us to death, or not. One Canadian couple obligingly screamed every time, and were rendered helpless with mirth by Adam's little jokes, which tells us something about Canadian entertainment.

Next day we took an open-topped bus tour of the city, with plenty of opportunity for jumping off and on again at the main tourist sites such as the castle, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Scott Monument, Greyfriars Bobby and St Giles's Cathedral in the High Street, whose otherwise undistinguished interior conceals in its furthest corner an absolute gem in the tiny Thistle Chapel, home to the 16 knights of the Order of the Thistle.

Eating and drinking pose no problems for visitors. The Royal Mile and streets off it seem to have as many pubs as cashmere and tartan shops, and the usual fast-food suspects are everywhere. Pizza seems to be an Edinburgh favourite — we counted at least four branches of Pizzaland — but since my daughter had a brief and undistinguished career as a Saturday waitress in our local branch in Kent, this was too much like home. Nor did we feel tempted by Prince Charlie's Scottish Extravaganza, "a memorable four-course banquet with singing, piping, dancing and music."

So we took pot-luck for dinner at two places featured on the tourist board's excellent city map, and were 50 per cent successful — Jackson's in a basement on the Royal Mile had poor service and a faint smell of disinfectant, but The Witchery on



Taking the high road: Princes Street, which every traveller to Edinburgh will visit

Castlehill was a real treat, with delicious food in eccentric surroundings that brought Miss Havisham to mind — the candelabra alone are worth the visit. The prices are definitely not in the undergraduate bracket, so I trust the daughter made the most of every mouthful.

**SALLY BAKER**  
• The author was a guest of Highlife Breaks.

### CITY BREAKS

Edinburgh  
■ Air UK (01345 666777) has flights from Stansted and London City. Edinburgh for £55 return with discounts at Stakis and Hilton hotels.

■ Golden Rail (01904 638973) offers a return trip from King's Cross to Edinburgh, with B&B at the Sheraton Grand for £132.

■ Charnings Hotel, Edinburgh, charges £112.50 a person for three nights' weekend B&B. Details from Rainbow Holidays (01904 643355).

■ Friday and Saturday night at the Chalamont Hotel, Edinburgh, (0131-229 2086) with an evening at the theatre costs from £69 per person. Bath

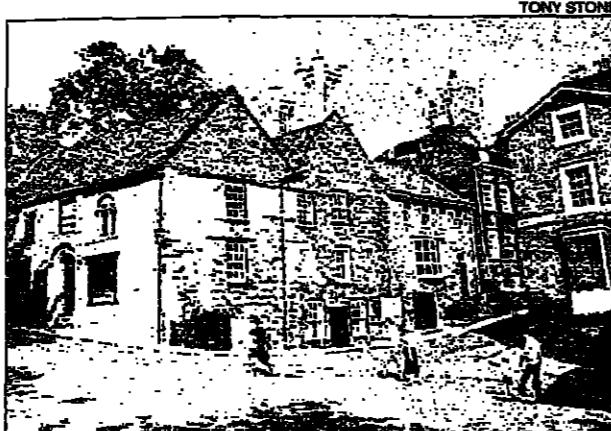
■ The Royal Hotel offers three nights with dinner, B&B for £92.50 per person from Friday night until Monday morning through Rainbow Holidays (01904 643355).

■ Somersett House (01252 466451) is staging a Georgian weekend from November 1 to 3 for £126.50 per person, including a guided tour.

■ The Royal Crescent Hotel (01252 739955) offers a dinner, bed and breakfast weekend rate of £230 for a couple sharing a standard twin or double room. Lincoln

■ Guests can stay at Courtyard by Marriott (01522 541244) for £24 a night on Friday, Saturday and Sundays evenings from November 1.

## Where even the Imp finds sanctuary



Steep Hill, Lincoln's winding and cobbled Roman road

### LINCOLN FILE

■ Tourist Information (01522 529828).  
■ The Castle Hotel, Westgate (01522 538800). B&B £32.50 per person. Heritage Breaks for £41 per person per night, includes dinner, B&B and extras.  
■ Edward King House at The Bishop's Old Palace (01522 528778). B&B £20.  
■ See box, above right.

came to the rescue. The city abounds in tea shops, however. My favourite was Piemento, a courtyard cafe tucked behind a boutique and a specialty tea shop on Steep Hill.

It was time for some serious sightseeing in the company of Herbert Sharman, a Lincoln born-and-bred city guide. "People think they can do Lincoln in a day before moving on to York or Durham, so we don't get many staying here," he complained. more out of

frustration than bitterness. As chairman of the Civic Trust he knows better than anyone what casual visitors are missing.

Mr Sharman walked us along the castle walls (Lincoln Castle is home to one of our four surviving Magna Cartas) and enlarged our knowledge of the cathedral, where 200 in the slot shone a light on the notorious Imp, perched high in the Angel Choir. Children can go "safari" seeking animals hiding in the wealth of

JENNY McCLEAN

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### THE ONAR VILLAGE

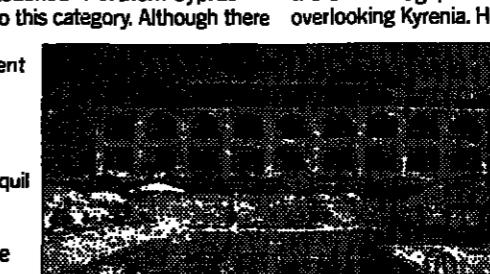
With hand on heart, there are few places

left in the Mediterranean which we can truly describe as "untouched". Northern Cyprus certainly falls into this category. Although there has been some hotel development in the past couple of years, the country still possesses a wonderfully tranquil and peaceful atmosphere, such as could be found on most Mediterranean islands some forty years ago.

In addition to its great natural beauty Northern Cyprus is steeped in history. Each period has left its mark, evident in the Greek and Roman sites, the monasteries, and the Byzantine churches. Perhaps best known of all, the Crusader Castles which perch high on mountain ledges.

Our week long visits to Northern Cyprus have been arranged during the Winter, when the weather is ideal for touring and exploring. The months of November and March offer particularly fine weather and day time temperatures are often in the low-seventies. The mid-winter months are cooler, but even in January it is surprisingly mild with temperatures often reaching the low and mid-twenties.

Such weather is glorious for visiting the ancient sites. Salamis, a one time capital, is especially worthwhile as is the old walled city of Famagusta, the 5th century BC palace of Vouni, and the ruins of Soli, a Hellenistic and Roman city. Drive up into the mountains to see the fairytale Kantara Castle. It was mentioned at the time of Richard Coeur de Lion's short stay on the way to the Crusades in 1191.



Our base for the week long stay will be the Onar Village, which sits high on a hill overlooking Kyrenia. Here you have the choice of staying in a hotel room which offers a private balcony or in one of the cottages which are scattered around the gardens. The cottages are large and consist of a bedroom, sitting room/dining room, bathroom, kitchen area and large patio. They are ideal for parties of 3 or 4 who wish to be accommodated together, but are also available for two people sharing.

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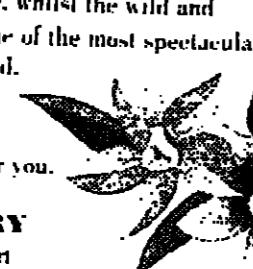
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Autumn & Xmas breaks for Antunes and Winter



## CHESS

by Raymond Keene

ENGLAND'S fourth place in the Chess Olympiad in Erevan was a good performance, although silver seemed within our grasp at one stage. On board four, last year's British champion, grandmaster Matthew Sadler, scored 10½/13 and won the gold medal for best individual performance. Here is a sample of his play from Erevan, which has catapulted him to a new rating level of around 2650, knocking on the door of world championship candidate status.

W: Carsten Hoi (Denmark)  
B: Matthew Sadler (England)  
Armenia, September 1996  
Queen's Gambit Accepted

1. d4 d5 2. Nf3 Nf6  
3. c4 dxc4 4. Nc3 Nc6

Sadler has made a speciality of accepting the Queen's Gambit. Although Black surrenders the centre, he gains fluid piece play and White's initiative can dissipate with alarming speed if he is at all inaccurate.

4. e3 e6 5. Bxc4 c5  
6. 0-0 a6 7. Nc3

White's opening strategy has been a simple developing move leads point to Black's intended expansion with his queenside pawns. White's minor pieces now act as targets for Black's advancing pawn mass. Better is 7 Qe2 followed quickly by Rd1.

7. b5 8. Bb3 Bb7  
9. Qe2 Nbd7 10. Rb1 Qb6  
11. a4 c4 12. Bc2 b4

Black's opening strategy has been a triumph. White has failed to gain any action in the centre and his minor pieces are now on the run.

13. a5 Qc7 14. Na4 Rb8  
15. a4 Qd7 16. Bb1 Qxa5

Having lost a pawn into the bargain, White's only chance is to launch a do or die attack.

17. e5 Nds 18. Ng5 Bb4  
19. Qd3 Rb8 20. Qb5

White's problem is that 20 Nxb7 fails to 20... Bc6 21. Nxb8 Nxf8 when Black's position is rock solid and he will soon pick up the pined White knight on a4.

20... Kd8 21. Nxf7+ Ke7

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

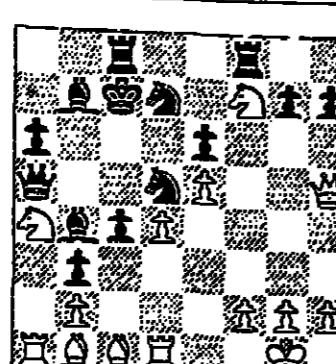
White to play. This position is from the game Braestadt-Brameyer, USSR 1968. Can you spot White's key winning move? Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN.

The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication.

The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition: 1... Qxd2.

Last week's winners: H A Rea,



Black's king has successfully fled from the attack on the opposite wing and Black still has the mighty threat of ... Bc6.

22. Nfd6 Bxd6 23. exd6+ Kb8 24. Ne5. A last attempt to evade the devastating ... Bc6.

24. Qxa1 25. Nxd7+ Ke7  
26. Ndb8 Rdb8 27. Bc4 c3

White's ingenious struggling has enabled him to avoid huge losses, but now Black decides the day.

28. bxc3 b2 29. Bd2 Nf4  
30. Qg4 Bxe4

White resigns.

In the England match against China Jon Speelman was caught in a diabolical snare. In the diagram position, although White is material down, the situation still looks unclear but Black hurled a thunderbolt.

White: Speelman (England)  
Black: Peng (China)  
Armenia, September 1996

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6  
4. c4 d5 5. Nc3 Nbd7 6. Bc2 Bb7  
7. 0-0 a6 8. Nbd5 Nf5 9. Qd3 Rb8  
10. Nc3 Qc7 11. Nf5 Nc6 12. Nc3 Nf5  
13. Nf5 Nc6 14. Nc3 Nf5 15. Nf5 Nc6  
16. Nc3 Nf5 17. Nf5 Nc6 18. Nc3 Nf5  
19. Nf5 Nc6 20. Nc3 Nf5 21. Nf5 Nc6  
22. Nc3 Nf5 23. Nf5 Nc6 24. Nc3 Nf5  
25. Nf5 Nc6 26. Nc3 Nf5 27. Nf5 Nc6  
28. Nc3 Nf5 29. Nf5 Nc6 30. Nc3 Nf5  
31. Nf5 Nc6 32. Nc3 Nf5 33. Nf5 Nc6  
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## FLORA BRITANNICA PART THREE: CUISINE SAUVAGE

GARETH LOVETT-JONES

In part three of *Flora Britannica*, Richard Mabey's definitive new guide to Britain's natural beauty, a wealth of wild food and how best to make use of it

### RAW MATERIAL FOR CREATIVE COOKS

Since the mid-1970s foraging for wild plant foods has become almost as common in Britain as on the Continent. Even mushroom-hunting has ceased to be regarded as an outlandish and dangerous eccentricity, and you must be out very early in British woods these days to be sure of getting your share of the first ceps and chanterelles.

From the late 1980s wild plants have also begun to make a perceptible impact on the commercial food business. In France, which has rather more raw materials at its disposal, there is a distinct school known as *cuisine sauvage*. And in Britain it is now not uncommon to find samphire, nettle, dandelions, bitter-cress, borage, wild strawberries, bilberries and ramsoms (wild garlic) served in some form or other in both smart metropolitan restaurants and local pubs. They are no longer regarded simply as rough peasant foods but are being used as ingredients for modern styles of cooking: wild herbs and fruits flavouring oils and vinegars (and even Danish-style schnapps); spring greens — garlic mustard, nettle, sorrel — stir-fried; flowers added to salads.

A contribution from a Hampshire woman of American ancestry illustrates

the inventiveness of the modern approach to wild foods: "I take so many of these foods for granted that I often forget that many people don't eat such things as dandelion pasta, nettle gnocchi or wild garlic and cheese soup. I guard any dandelion greens that spring up in my garden with as much enthusiasm as some look after their most prized tomato plants. My latest invention is to chop a load of assorted greens I've gathered, sauté them with garlic and onion, fold in ricotta cheese, some fine bread crumbs and an egg and use this as a stuffing for pasta shells or home-made ravioli..."

"My grandmother's cousin, Amber, had all her workmates gathered round the bench in the mill for a picnic. I had layered cooked dandelion greens, cheese, sliced black olives and a little tomato sauce, made with garlic, into flaky pastry and baked it into a pastry. It became her favourite lunchbox treat..."

"Have you ever had pickled greens? They are wonderful. Mustard greens, turnip greens, wild greens, the patient and persistent dandelion greens — all potted-up in a spiced, slightly sweet vinegar. They make a cheese sandwich sing."



Service tree berries: a little known fruit



The leaves of common sorrel, found on road verges, riverbanks and in grassland, are increasingly used in salads, soups and sauces for fish

### NATURAL RECIPES WITH A BIT OF SPIRIT



Japanese knotweed can be used in jams and pies

■ **Blackthorn (sloe)**  
This is an abundant shrub of hedges, scrub and open woodland. Sloe gin is made by gathering sloes in late September or October, prickling them, filling a bottle with them, adding a few spoonfuls of sugar and covering with gin. The almond-flavoured liqueur is ready to drink by Christmas, but improves with age. One contributor wrote in to say: "As a by-product, the gin-soaked sloes can be dipped into melted chocolate, which is then allowed to set."

■ **Bramble or Blackberry**  
More than 400 microspecies have been recognised in Britain, each one differing subtly in fruiting time, size, texture and taste. Recipes are legion: old — such as blackberry crumble, made with toasted oats, cream and rum — and modern — blackberry vinegar, with the berries marinated with sugar in white vinegar and served with grilled goat's cheese. The most delicate is a jumkin, made by squeezing the juice from ripe berries and allowing it to set in a bowl in a warm room. The result: pure essence of blackberry.

the foods which we are told to eat: body-building, protective and energising." The chef Anton Mosimann blends his with fromage blanc, new potatoes and nutmeg into a "nettle nougat".

#### ■ Crab apple

The true wild crab is a scarce tree of old hedges and woods. Crab apples are small, hard and sour, but make a good pickle, a pectin-rich base for jams, and the best of all wild fruit jellies, ranging in colour from yellow to deep pink. They can also be roasted and served with meat or added to warmed ale and punches.

#### ■ Dandelions

These are now much more familiar to British cooks. The traditional French dish *pissenlit au lard* (fried bacon scraps and croûtons served on a dandelion salad) is found increasingly on menus. The flowers can be added to dandelion salads and provide a welcome dash of colour and a soft, honey-flavour. But they are most usually gathered for making dandelion wine.

#### ■ Elder

It is hard to understand how this mangy and foul-smelling shrub was once regarded as one of the most magically powerful of plants. The principal use for the flowers and berries is as food. Elderflower fritters are made by dipping the freshly opened umbels in batter and frying for a few minutes. One contributor wrote: "I like to eat, in effect, the flowers and berries at the same time. To do this I make a sorbet using the flowers and serve some with the last of the sorbet made from the berries during the previous autumn." The berries also make a rich, dark wine, a "rob" for sore throats, and are an ingredient of "hedgerow jam".

#### ■ Garlic mustard or Jack-by-the-hedge

An abundant herb of hedgebanks and woods, smelling mildly of garlic. Its nettle-shaped leaves can be picked from September until late spring. If has long been used as a flavouring in sauces for fish and lamb, and with spring salads.

#### ■ Horseradish

This is a common perennial of waste ground and road-sides in England, though scarce in Scotland. There are all manner of recipes for turning the grated root into sauces but none to match the formula of the flamboyant 19th-century chef Alexis Soyer. It is called, with some justification, "The Universal Devil's Mixture": "Put in a bowl a good tablespoonful of Durham mustard... mix with four tablespoonsfuls of Chilli vinegar. Add to it a tablespoonful of grated horseradish, two bruised shallots, teaspoonful of salt, half ditto of Cayenne, ditto of black pepper, and one of pounded sugar, two teaspoonsful of chopped chillies, if handy. Add the yolks of two raw eggs. Take a paste brush and, after having slightly seasoned each piece of meat with salt, rub over each piece with the same

probing some into the incisions. First broil slowly and then the last few minutes as near as possible to the Pan-demonium fire."

#### ■ Japanese knotweed

This is now officially regarded as the most pernicious weed in Britain. Encouragingly, the habit of eating the young shoots (which are used as a vegetable in Japan) has begun to spread. It was first introduced by Euell Gibbons, the pioneer writer on American wild foods, in the 1960s. In his classic *Stalking the Wild Asparagus*, he calls it "a combination fruit-vegetable" and stresses that, although it may look like an asparagus when it first appears, it has a tart taste more like sorrel or rhubarb (members of the same family), and he recommends making jam or pies from the shoots when they

are no more than a foot tall. People in Wales have discovered knotweed's culinary potential. In parts of Dyfed, the young shoots and leaves are cooked like spinach.

#### ■ Juniper

This provides the essential flavouring for gin. But the berries are now mostly imported from eastern Europe. Home-grown fruits, however, are increasingly used as a flavouring, especially with game. A contributor from Lancashire writes: "The local limestone hill, Arnside Knot, provides us with juniper berries to cook with venison. Used whole they give a bitter, crunchy bite to savouries."

#### ■ Marsh samphire (common glasswort)

Many people's introduction to the lesser-known reaches of wild-food gathering, it

occurs all around the coast of Britain, but East Anglia is where it is best known and most widely used. North Norfolk is where I first made its acquaintance in the 1960s, as a shiny, succulent plant, rather like a plum, jointed pipe-cleaner, which appeared on bare mud and the edges of creeks from late May onwards. I soon learnt that picking shouldn't begin before the longest day, and that the healthiest specimens were those "washed by every tide". The stems can be eaten raw as a crisp and salty salad plant, or boiled briefly, like thin asparagus, and dipped in molten butter or warm oil. They are eaten by holding the root end and drawing the stems between the teeth, to strip the flesh off the central stalk. Samphire will keep for a few days, provided it is dry.

#### ■ Ramsons or wild garlic

These grow in similar situations to bluebells, and often with them. Despite their strong smell en masse, ramsons are surprisingly mild to eat. The broad leaf-blades are used in salads, stews and soups. After I introduced the Italian owner of the village pub at the Lee, Buckinghamshire, to his local colonies, he added a flurry of wild garlic improvisations to his Tuscan menu: olive oil in which ramsons leaves had been steeped; ramsons salads; and ramsons leaves chopped and added, instead of basil, to a cold tomato sauce for pasta.

#### ■ Sea beet

A large-leaved, straggly perennial which grows on sea walls, shingle and waste ground in most parts of the coast. The leaves are tangy and substantial cooked as spinach, and one of the most popular of wild vegetables.

#### ■ Sorrel

This is common on road verges and riverbanks and in grassland. The leaves are increasingly used in salads, soups and sauces for fish. A woman from the Baltic serves sorrel soup with hard-boiled egg, just as spinach soup is served in eastern Europe. But the taste of

cooked sorrel is closer to rhubarb than spinach. A recipe from the 1930s exploits this fruitiness by using the leaves in a turnover as a substitute for apple.

#### ■ Sweet chestnut

This was almost certainly one of the few species that was introduced to Britain by the Romans. Modern recipes for cooked wild chestnuts



The bramble in a drawing from the 11th century

include soup, vanilla-flavoured spread and a stuffing which is then battered and fried as croquettes.

#### ■ Watercress

This is the only British native plant which has passed into large-scale commercial cultivation scarcely altered from its wild state. Growing it commercially in beds avoids the danger of picking up larvae of the fluke, *Fasciola hepatica*, which attacks and severely damages the livers of sheep and cattle, and can do the same to humans. The only way to ensure you are eating fluke-free cresses is to pick plants growing in fast-

#### ■ Wild service tree

This is one of the most local and least known of our native trees. The fruits were a Neolithic staple, gained enough popularity at one time for houses, farms and pubs to be named after them, and then passed into obscurity, as ancient woodland habitats were destroyed. The brown berries, round or pear-shaped, are hard and bitter at first, but as the autumn progresses (or once they are picked and taken indoors) they begin to "blet" and turn soft and very sweet. The taste has hints of apricot, sultana, overripe damson and tamarind.

● Edited extracts from *Flora Britannica* published by Sinclair-Stevenson at £30. © 1966 Richard Mabey.

NEXT WEEK  
THE FLOWERING STARS OF BRITAIN'S WILD BEAUTY  
FLORA BRITANNICA BOOK OFFER, PAGE 5

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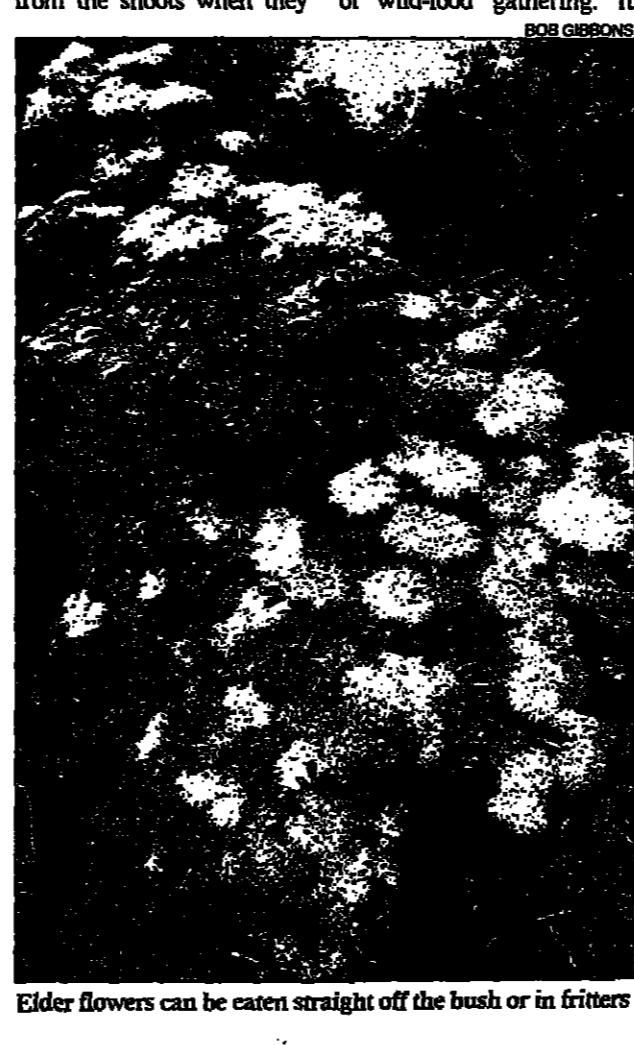
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Elder flowers can be eaten straight off the bush or in fritters



# Steps to put the family in order

Only one in three adults has made a proper will — the remaining population leave families a legal and financial dilemma when they die. Make a Will Week (October 14-20), organised by the Law Society, aims to raise awareness of the importance of preparing a will and updating it regularly. Solicitors in England and Wales will offer their services, with many providing special rates.

□ The Association of Solicitor Investment Managers (ASIM) emphasises the need to seek a solicitor's advice to avoid the problems if you die intestate. Free directory of ASIM member firms from 01892 870065.

□ According to NatWest Investments, 2.5 million cohabitantes could be in real danger of having their estate divided against their wishes in the absence of a will. Call 0800 722733 for a copy of NatWest's updated guide and video, *How to Make a Will*.

□ Scottish Widows has produced the latest in a series of financial files, *The Will File*, which provides a useful checklist to drawing up a will, revoking or making changes to it. Call 0345 678910.

LIZZANE ROSE

## GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

### ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at October 10, 1996

Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year		
5,000	AIG Life	4.90
10,000	AIG Life	5.00
20,000	AIG Life	5.15
50,000	AIG Life	5.25
2 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	4.55
3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	5.70
3 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	4.90
3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.10
4 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.20
3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.35
5 Years		
1,000	Premium Life	5.45
3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.55

Source: Chamberlain de Broé 0171-4344222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

## SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Teachers' BS 01202 887171	Bullion	Instant	£500	4.80	15/Yr
Alliance & Leic BS 0845 228858	Instn Direct	Postal	£5,000	5.40	Y/Y
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Instn Postal	Postal	£10,000	5.85	Y/Y
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Instn Postal	Postal	£25,000	6.05	Y/Y

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nottingham BS 0115 5654422	Direct Reserve	20 day p	£2,500	6.10	Y/Y
Nottingham BS 0115 5654422	Direct Reserve	5 year	£2,500	6.40	Y/Y
Greenwich BS 0161 858 8212	One Yr Term Shr	1 year	£2,500	6.50	Y/Y
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	Fxd Rate Bond	31.03.98	£5,000	6.80	F/FOM

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	Fixed rate	5 year	£5,000	7.45	F/FM
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fixed rate	5 year	£1,000	7.30	F/FM
Birmingham Midshires 01222 720721	5 year	£500	7.00	Y/Y	
Principality BS 01222 344188	5 year	£500	6.80	Y/Y	

## CREDIT CARDS' BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.64%INC	7.90%N	NB
Robert Fleming/S&P 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.90%INC	11.20%N	NB
RB of Scotland 01702 349393	Visa/Worldwide	0.935%INC	12.90%N	£10

## PERSONAL LOANS' BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3 yrs with insurance
Direct Line 0141 248 9998	13.90%E	£112.86
Alliance & Leic Grp 0116 262626	14.80%	£114.93
Midland 0800 180180	14.90%	£115.82

N.B. C = no interest free period. E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years. F = Fixed rate

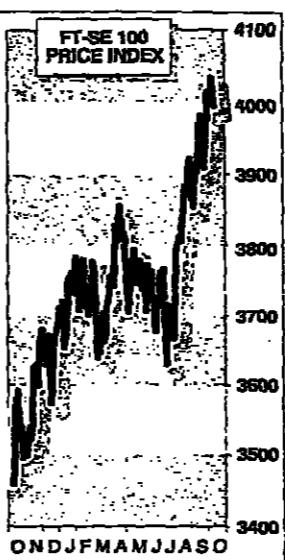
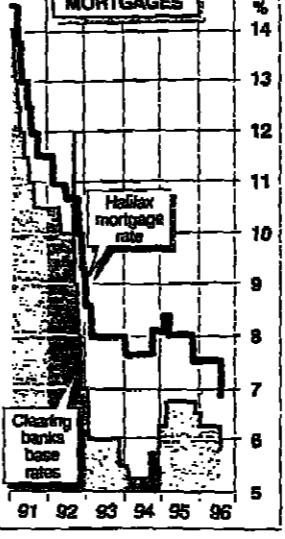
(all other rates variable), N = introductory rate for a limited period. P = By Post only

\* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01622 500 677)

Compiled by: Lizzane Rose

## BASE RATES V MORTGAGES



ON DJFMAMJJASO

## NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate 20%	Interest rates 20% - 40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notes	Contact
Ordinary A/c	1.50	1.20 0.90	10-10,000**	1mth	0645 645000
Investment A/c*	4.75	3.80 2.85	20-500**	3mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*	6.00	4.80 3.80-20,250,000**	25-1,000	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond	6.00	4.80 3,001,000-20,000**	100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
43rd Issue Cert	5.35		100-10,000	1mth	0645 645000
Children's Bond	6.75		25-1,000		0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51				0645 645000
Capital Bonds	6.65	5.32 3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
9th Index Linked	2.50		100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensions Bond	7.00	5.60 4.20	500-50,000, 6day		0645 645000

first £10,000 of ext. free, then £10,000 for up to £100,000 for 5 years remitted procedure for £20,000 - \* Rates gross and yield guaranteed when held for 5 years 10% net bonus for £20,000 in addition to S1 and S2 holdings. \*\* Tapered rates apply.

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## RUGBY UNION

# Continental drift gives players a chance to shine

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHILE administrators off the field continue wrangling over the future of European rugby, its funding, its structure and who should organise it, today the players take over. They do so with a sense of purpose, determined to show that however chaotic the preparations may have been for the second year of the Heineken Cup, the tournament itself will live up to the promise of its inaugural season.

This week alone, two new European tournaments have been projected for future years. One would involve 36 clubs in two leagues, with a cup competition as an extra. The other would be based on provincial XV's that are integral to the make-up of Scottish and Irish rugby but are far less relevant in England, Wales, France and Italy. None of this is of immediate concern to the players and coaches, particularly those in England and Scotland, whose first European experience this will be.

Bath, Wasps and Leicester are all familiar with continental opposition but only on an ad hoc basis. "When we at Bath played Toulon or Toulouse we didn't know what to expect for the first 20 minutes," Jack Rowell, the former Bath coach now in charge of England, said. "Europe will raise the standards for everyone. I see it as an evolving experience for the players."

Without committing himself, Rowell has some sympathy for the "Super 16" concept advocated by Fran Cotton, the British Isles manager next summer, which is based on divisional and provincial teams and resembles the successful Super 12 tournament run in the southern hemisphere.

The club culture that holds sway, particularly in England and France, will be hard to break down, however, and it would be no surprise if, at some time in the future, the Rugby Football Union conceded the divisional principle, so long as it had an assurance

that any club side awarded a fixture against, for example, the New Zealanders, would field only English-qualified players.

The Heineken Cup and the European Conference give teams the chance to evaluate their standings in domestic rugby. It is ironic that some of those British teams involved in the second-tier tournament may have the more difficult task on their hands — of the French clubs in form, Agen, who beat Toulouse last week.

## HEINEKEN CUP

POOL A: Oct 12: Bath v Edinburgh; Exeter v Toulouse; Oct 13: Bath v Edinburgh; Toulouse v Exeter; Oct 19: Edinburgh v Bath; Oct 20: Bath v Edinburgh; Oct 21: Bath v Edinburgh; Oct 27: Edinburgh v Toulouse; Nov 2: Bath v Toulouse; Nov 9: Bath v

POOL B: Oct 12: Leinster v London Wasps; Scotch Borders v Saracens; Oct 16: London Wasps v Scotch Borders; London Wasps v Saracens; Oct 18: Saracens v London Wasps; Oct 25: Saracens v London Wasps; Nov 2: London Wasps v Saracens; Nov 9: London Wasps v Saracens

POOL C: Oct 12: Brive v Neath; Oct 13: Caledonia Ulster v Ulster; Oct 16: Ulster v Munster; Oct 18: Ulster v Munster; Oct 25: Brive v Neath; Oct 26: Caledonia Ulster v Brive; Oct 28: Neath v Ulster; Oct 27: Brive v Neath; Nov 2: Brive v Caledonia Ulster v Ulster; Nov 9: Ulster v Brive

POOL D: Oct 12: Munster v Milan; Oct 13: Caledonia Ulster v Milan; Oct 16: Caledonia Ulster v Milan; Oct 18: Toulouse v Cardiff; Munster v Wasps; Oct 25: Wasps v Toulouse; Oct 27: Cardiff v Toulouse; Nov 2: Toulouse v Munster; Milan v Wasps

QUARTER-FINALS: Nov 16 and 17. Semi-Finals: Jan 4 or 5 1997. Final date to be confirmed

end, Bourgoin and Montferrand will all play in the conference.

"We need to be sure the balance between Europe and domestic rugby is right, so that the domestic tournaments are not devalued," Rob Smith, the Wasps coach, said. Smith regards the game against Cardiff at Loftus Road tomorrow the first opportunity for an English and a Welsh club to play each other in a meaningful tournament, as opposed to the old-style friendly fixtures and the haphazard Anglo-Welsh tournament of this season, which is leading nowhere.

"We need to find out what challenges are involved and how we adapt to them," Smith said. Wasps will do so with Gareth Rees in his international position of stand-off half because Alex King has injured a shoulder. Jonathan Davies, who is likely to spearhead Cardiff's bid to improve on their runners-up position of last year, was hoping to examine King's qualities at close quarters but is now faced by the chunky Rees, with the even chunkier Vatuaiga Tuigamala outside him and Lawrence Dallaglio champing at the bit inside him.

Wasps, in pool D, must qualify against Toulouse, the holders, whose young midfield player, Thomas Castaignede, believes England's best teams need to be taught a lesson. "To win the European Cup a second time will be fine, to do so by beating the English is even better," he said. "They look down on the rest of us, I hope they resent missing the first European Cup. Now it's up to them to prove they deserve to win it."

Inevitably the tournament will catapult new names into the limelight: Richard Governey, only 17, plays stand-off for Leinster against Llanelli today; Andrew Lucking, a medical student, pits his 6ft 9in, 18st frame against Bath in Edinburgh's second row; Garan Evans seeks fresh laurels on full back for Llanelli.

The impact the tournament will make on the public remains in doubt because, since the withdrawal of ITV, there is no uniformity in broadcasting the event. Welsh viewers, who were well served last season, will get more of the same from BBC Wales and S4C. RTE will show Munster's game with Milan live and FR2 in France and Teles Piu in Italy have primary rights — but the event remains an unknown quantity for English viewers. *Rugby Special* announced a five-week, Sabatical last Sunday but there is optimism that it will be back by next weekend.

## Italians can convince Euro-sceptics

Michael Lynagh tells David Hands, rugby correspondent, of the cup threat posed by an emerging nation

Even days ago, Welshmen received a stern reminder of the qualities of Italian rugby when their national side was relieved to come away from Rome with a somewhat breathless victory. The Heineken Cup, which begins today, offers the Italians another stage on which to advance their claims to parity with the establishment of the five nations.

It is important that they succeed. The point of a European competition is to take all sides into unfamiliar territory, not, say, for Harlequins to end up playing Cardiff. In that respect, it is unfortunate that both of Italy's representatives, Milan and Treviso, begin away from home, against Munster in Cork, and Pontypool at Sardis Road, respectively.

"One of these days an Italian side — possibly the national team, maybe one of the better clubs — will give an established side a hiding," Michael Lynagh said. "When they do they will get so much confidence from it that it will be like a shot in the arm for Italian rugby."

Lynagh speaks with the authority of one who played four years in Treviso before joining Saracens this season.

Not that Lynagh, formerly the Australia stand-off half and captain, will be involved in European competition. Last season, he was part of the Treviso team in the inaugural year of the Heineken Cup, but Saracens missed out on both the cup and the European Conference, the second-tier tournament that also begins today.

In any case, Lynagh is still a week away from his first match since damaging a shoulder while playing against Wasps on September 8. He hopes for a comparatively gentle resumption against Cambridge University next weekend. But he will be watching with interest to see how Treviso fare against Pontypool, where Milan came unstuck a year ago.

"There is a vast gulf now between Treviso, Milan and the rest of Italian club rugby, whereas when I first went



Lynagh believes that leading Italian clubs can make a mark in the Heineken Cup

there, there were five or six teams who were pretty competitive."

Lynagh said. "Now it's a foregone conclusion which teams will meet in the final."

Indeed, Treviso finished top of Serie A1 last season, only to lose the final to Milan, despite a 17-3 interval lead. It was Diego Dominguez, the diminutive Argentinian, who kicked Milan back into the match, and Lynagh has a healthy regard for his talents which, if Munster give him space, could prove damaging to Irish prospects.

Lynagh also believes that

the Milan forwards, led by Massimo Cuttitta, the national captain, will prove a handful, though Treviso are without two of their best back-row forwards, Carlo Checchinato and Julian Gardner, who are both injured.

"All the good players have gravitated to the two best clubs, which may be good for the national side but is not a healthy situation for Italian rugby generally," he said. "But the economic situation in Italy has caused sponsors to look carefully at their involvement and some first

division clubs do not have backing this season."

"Part of the problem for Italian teams is that they take time to get going. Last year Treviso won their first game really well and then lost narrowly away to Toulouse the eventual winners of the Heineken Cup. We went in against Toulouse with the attitude that we wanted to avoid disgrace, to be able to leave holding our heads high. In fact we could have won the match and that experience will make them all the keener to do well second time around."

## SQUASH

## Jackman's path eased by defeat for Martin

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN PETALING JAYA, MALAYSIA

CASSANDRA JACKMAN's campaign for the women's world open championship took an unexpected boost here yesterday when Michelle Martin, the apparently invincible defending champion, was beaten in the quarter-finals by Liz Irving, her Australian compatriot, 4-9, 10-9, 9-5, 9-5 in 46 minutes.

Jackman, 23, the No 4 seed from Norfolk, who has displayed more fluent balance than before in her early matches here, almost routinely defeated Sabine Schone, the German No 1, 9-2, 9-2, 9-4 in 25 minutes.

More surprisingly, Jackman was later joined in victory by Sue Wright, 26, from Kent, who needed precisely the same time to defeat Suzanne Horner, the No 5 seed and British national champion from Yorkshire, 9-4, 9-0, 9-4 to earn a semi-final place against Sarah FitzGerald, from Australia, the No 2 seed.

FitzGerald, 27, a former world junior champion, has long had her eye on becoming the first woman to convert that particular junior success into senior pre-eminence, and was abrupt — 9-2, 9-1, 9-1 — with Carol Owens, her young Australian compatriot, in their quarter-final. She described the encounter with Wright, whom she recalls as a "pudgy" kid who played second string for England when she won her junior title in 1987. . . as "interesting".

Much more pertinent to FitzGerald's ambition of upgrading titles is the surprising exchange of Irving for Martin in Jackman's top-half semi-final, which offers high prospects of a second former world junior champion reaching the final tomorrow.

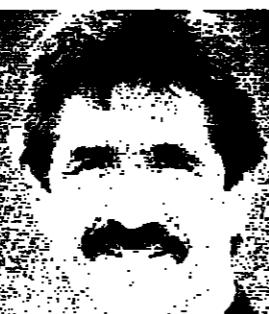
Jackman took the junior title in 1991 and declared herself "well pleased" to see Martin, the only player to have won three successive world open titles, fall despite leading 5-1 in the last two games.

"Michelle lost that match rather than Liz winning it," Jackman said. "I have to see it as a helpful result."

Results, page 47

## Harlequins offer Welsh stark reminder of former glories

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Union  
Commentary

face. It should continue to nurture it if it is wise. Others may soon become too solemn. Harlequins' mood is rare and not always easy to keep the ball rolling. It will be a much-valued commodity.

At present Harlequins are winning and are doing so with enviable style, although, as Best himself readily admits, the really testing time lies ahead of them. But who at this moment would not wish to be a card-carrying member of the club? They are a splendid side to watch.

Cardiff are the Harlequins' Welsh equivalent, though never quite with the same pretensions to high society. Their rugby reputation, however, was somewhat better. Cardiff have been seen to occupy a privileged position, even if only for the fact that they belong to a capital city and, like their London counterparts, had once played in their country's national stadium. They were not bad at playing the game, either.

There was, rightly or wrongly, a social and playing *cachet* attached to both. Yet there is a noticeable shift. Harlequins are buoyantly riding the wave of rugby's revolution. Cardiff are surely not.

On Wednesday, for the second time in a week, Harlequins travelled westwards along the M4. They returned

home from Cardiff more abundantly rewarded, with a 53-24 win than they had done a week previously from Swansea. The home team enjoyed the bigger share of the territorial advantage, but what use was this if, without speed of thought and inventiveness, they could not, in the early stages, cross the opposition line. Their play was predictable and prone to error.

The three tries they scored emerged from grafting persistence. Admittedly, all tries should be gratefully received however they came by, but there was a sense of generous sweep and movement about the Harlequins' tries of the kind that Cardiff once was proud. More, the visitors' handling was crisp and precise; somebody always in position to move forwards. The Harlequins players, backs and forwards alike, made their decisions upon the instant, when the ball was in their hands, not predetermined, like Cardiff, before the ball arrived. It is an important and crucial distinction, the difference that separates the manufactured player from the instinctive one.

Thus far, Bridgend have beaten Wasps and Llanelli managed a draw against Bath. This is the sum total of Welsh successes out of 17 games in the Anglo-Welsh Cup.

# NEWS OF THE WORLD

## ALAN SHEARER EXCLUSIVE

My top five strikers

READ ENGLAND'S CAPTAIN  
ONLY IN TOMORROW'S NEWS OF THE WORLD

shires. An Earl's Court bedsitter may be closer to the truth, but the old aura is hard to shrug off. Image does not always coincide with reality.

Indeed, it may be that what they once thought of, in a gadabout sort of way, as a good, blokish wheeze with optional extras, like finding connections for a good job or a modish girlfriend, may now turn out to be an even better way of life altogether. Other clubs look sternly on and take themselves ever so seriously while the Harlequins players look like the cads who are slurping the cream. Imagine getting paid handsomely for doing something which is a great deal of fun. This is too good to be true, they will conclude.

The lightness of touch is still there in the impression they convey when they are playing. Nowadays, they are fit, fast, skilful and efficient, which has not always been the case. Professionalism has come to rest so easily on one of England's most feyish of clubs. The transition for them has been seamless.

Harlequins is, for the moment, a club with a smile on its

face. It should continue to nurture it if it is wise. Others may soon become too solemn. Harlequins' mood is rare and not always easy to keep the ball rolling. It will be a much-valued commodity.

At present Harlequins are winning and are doing so with enviable style, although, as Best himself readily admits, the really testing time lies ahead of them. But who at this moment would not wish to be a card-carrying member of the club? They are a splendid side to watch.

Yet there is a noticeable shift. Harlequins are buoyantly riding the wave of rugby's revolution. Cardiff are surely not.

On Wednesday, for the second time in a week, Harlequins travelled westwards along the M4. They returned

A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY

MERCURY COMMUNICATIONS

# GOWER STUMPS BT.

On this week's "They Think It's All Over", David Gower really stumped the opposition. He knocked Rory McGrath for six, by declaring "I'm on Mercury and they're 20% cheaper [than BT]".

It seems our message is really getting home. And poor old Rory is on a sticky wicket.

Mercury SmartCall

You don't have to be a genius to see how much you save.

Print and online advertising, 1600 sites, 8.1 million users, compared against BT's 5.5 million sites, 7.5 million users.

BT's 5.5 million sites, 7.5 million users, compared against BT's 5.5 million sites, 7.5 million users.

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## CYCLING

Swiss set sights on second world title

By PETER BRYAN

THE decision to hold the world road racing championships in October, at the end of a season that started in early February, has yet to be fully welcomed by the combatants, especially in an Olympic year, but when the week-long series ends in Lugano tomorrow, hundreds of thousands of spectators are expected to line the 16.8-kilometre circuit for the elite (previously known as the professional) title race in the Swiss Alps.

The absence of cycling's biggest name, Miguel Indurain, who seems close to a final decision to retire, and the Olympic champion, Pascal Richard, will not detract from the importance and interest of the 252-kilometre championship.

Switzerland have high hopes, after Alex Zulle's wins in the Tour of Spain and Thursday's world time-trial championship, together with Tony Rominger's third place in the Spanish tour and bronze medal in this week's time-trial, but most eyes will be on Italy's 12-strong squad, which is likely to provide its first champion since Giau Bugno won his second world title in 1992. Bugno, nearing the end of his career, will work hard, if necessary, for his colleagues, especially Andrea Ferragato and Roberto Pistore. The course favours specialist climbers and, on present form, Laurent Jalabert and Richard Virenque, of France, cannot be discounted.

Max Sciandri, the Olympic bronze medal-winner on a similar course in Atlanta, has a dedicated British team supporting him, led by Sean Yates, his Motorola colleague and former wearer of the yellow jersey in the Tour de France, who is competing in his last big international event.

## CRICKET: MISSED STUMPING COSTS AUSTRALIA DEAR IN ONE-OFF TEST MATCH

# Century from Mongia puts India in command

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

NAYAN MONGIA became the first India wicketkeeper in 12 years to score a Test century as his team established a strong position at the end of the second day of the one-off Test match in Delhi yesterday.

Mongia, 27, scored a career-best 137 not out as India reached 319 for six by the close of the second day's play, giving them a first-innings lead of 137. Australia, bowled out for 182 on the opening day, face a massive task as the wicket continues to

unassailable position when they reached 144 for one soon after lunch.

However, Australia fought back in the afternoon, removing Ganguly. Sachin Tendulkar, the captain, who made only ten, and Mohammad Azharuddin, his predecessor, with only 55 runs added to their total.

Rahul Dravid then contributed a rapid 40 in a 61-run stand for the fifth wicket with Mongia. Mongia's vigil on the way to his maiden Test century has so far lasted six hours and 26 minutes, during which he hit 17 boundaries.

Syed Kirmani was the last India wicketkeeper to score a Test century when he made 102 against England, led by David Gower, in 1984.

"I have confidence in my batting abilities, it was only a matter of time before the century came," Mongia, whose previous best score was 80 against the West Indies at Bombay two years ago, said. "I was hitting the ball so well, I just wanted to keep going."

Mongia was not concerned that the selectors could drop him down the order when Sidhu returns for the forthcoming series against South Africa. "I'll be happy to bat anywhere," the wicketkeeper, who is playing his fourteenth Test, said. "The important thing is to do well for India."

Mongia spent 45 minutes in the 90s before reaching the three-figure mark, soon after tea. Australia were left to rue a missed stumping by Ian Healy off Peter McIntyre before Ganguly had added to his

overnight score of 19. Ganguly moved to 66, but missed equaling Azharuddin's feat of three centuries in his first three Test matches when he top-edged a pull off Brad Hogg to Mark Waugh at slip.

Ganguly, who made 131 on his debut at Lord's in June and followed that with 136 at Trent Bridge, hit ten fours and a six.



Ganguly takes evasive action as a short-pitched ball goes down the leg side

## SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 182

INDIA: First Innings 319

VS Nations v Poring b Raffet 1

R M Mongia c D S Waugh b Hogg 65

b McIntyre 10

M Ashwin b McGrath 1

P S Gopinath c R Waugh b Hogg 40

S Joshi c Poring b Ganguly 23

A R Kapoor not out 8

Extras (0 5, 1 0, nb 7) 13

Total (6 wickets) 319

A Kumble, B K V Prasad and D Johnson to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-144, 3-169,

4-188, 5-200, 6-303.

BOWLING: McGrath 23-8-43-1; Raffet 14-5-42-1; P. Waugh 13-5-25-1; Mistry 3-45-10-2; Hogg 17-3-68-1; M Waugh 12-0-42-0.

Umpires: P Willey (England) and S Venkateshwaran (India).

## HOCKEY: LEADING CLUBS FACE WEEKEND OF HEKTIC COMPETITION IN NATIONAL LEAGUES

## East Grinstead hit the road

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

IT PROMISES to be a busy weekend for East Grinstead, a weekend spent twixt hotel room and hockey pitch, living out of a suitcase in pursuit of points in the premier division of the National League. In fact, it promises to be a busy weekend for all 12 teams in the division as they play on Saturday and Sunday, but East Grinstead are the only side with two away matches, at Cannock on Saturday before moving on to London to play Teddington at Chiswick.

"You win some, you lose

some," was the reaction of Brian Poole, East Grinstead's liaison officer, who announced no changes in the side that beat Surbiton 50-0 last week. The focus of attention will again be Bhatti, who scored three goals in that match.

Cannock, the leaders and title-holders, have also announced an unchanged side, but are concerned about Chris Mayer, who suffered a head injury during training on Tuesday and spent the night in hospital. It is doubtful whether he will play on both days. After the game against East Grinstead, Cannock will travel to Canterbury and stay the night at Maidstone, where their hotel expenses will also be paid. They will still have to spend about £200 on transport.

Canterbury are still awaiting the return of four Wales players who have been involved in the World Cup qualifying tournament in Italy. Although they must have a reasonable chance of beating Guildford, their task against Cannock tomorrow looks formidable.

Beeston should have little difficulty holding their position as first division leaders when they visit Lewes tomorrow. First-round matches in the Hockey Association Cup are also scheduled to be played tomorrow, but Southampton and Old Kingstonians have withdrawn, allowing Hampstead and Winchester Walkover victories.

## Wallace swaps the sun for Slough

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

EACH October, Ashleigh Wallace puts on her trainers and heads for the beach at Camps Bay in Cape Town. After an easy run, she might indulge in a game of beach volleyball or start work on her tan for the summer.

Not this year. As the first Springbok to play in the women's National League premier division, Wallace is coming to terms with the serious business of training with Slough as they prepare to capture a fifth league championship.

Wallace, 31, earned 18 caps as a midfield player for the Springboks, but, after losing her place last year, she moved to England and joined the club she knew would give her the opportunity to play good, hard, competitive hockey.

Nobody would argue with her choice. As well as playing alongside such illustrious players as Karen Brown and Sarah Keleher, the Ireland international, Wallace is also relishing the prospect of European competition.

"It's been great so far," she said. "I've had a lot of support and it's been a pleasure training with a squad who are so professional and mentally strong. What I really admire is how hard they work at practices — in Cape Town, we have the luxury of two water-based artificial surfaces to train on and I realise just how

we waste our time and mess around at training. Slough have 1½ hours a week on a sand-filled pitch."

Slough's unbeaten run has given them a three-point cushion at the top of the table, ahead of the Bristol team, Clifton, who they face tomorrow. Wallace knows that the clash will be a stern test, but she is looking forward to it, as she is to taking on the holders, Hightown and Ipswich.

She said: "I've heard so much about them and that's why I'm here. There's never an easy game, they're all so tight. I'd say that the top clubs in South Africa would hold their own, but the weaker ones wouldn't stand a chance. One thing I have noticed is how technical all the players are. At home, we tend to just get on with it and go out and play."

There are, of course, a few drawbacks, such as the weather: "I know there's a lot worse to come. I can't imagine what it must be like when there's snow and ice around." And the travelling: "That's been the biggest shock to my system. We travelled to Doncaster last week — we think a 20-minute trip is ridiculous in Cape Town. Still, making sure of a regular place in the starting line-up and winning the title will make it all worthwhile."

OLYMPIC officials plan to introduce a test next month to detect erythropoietin (EPO), the drug that can aid competitors in endurance events and is suspected of having caused several deaths in cycling.

EPO, which increases the number of oxygen-carrying red blood cells, has already been banned by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Prince Alexandre de Merode, the president of the IOC Medical Commission, said after a meeting of the executive board in Lausanne yesterday: "We still have to look into the legal aspects of the test, as we always do, but that should be a formality."

Much of the work on identifying the artificial use of EPO has been carried out at the University of Quebec in Canada. It is used clinically to treat kidney diseases.

Up to 18 cyclists, many of them based in Belgium and Holland, are reported to have died having used the drug in the 1980s. When used in large doses, experts say it can damage the circulatory system, possibly leading to a heart attack.

EPO is one of the two biggest drug problems that the IOC has to face. The other is the use of human growth hormone, which is so far undetectable.

Meanwhile, Romario arrived an hour and a quarter late for training at Valencia on Thursday, explaining cheerfully that he had overslept. He has already been in trouble for training insufficiently hard, and has responded with the modest claim that, at 30, he is too old to train like the other players.

And, meanwhile again, Sam Torrance, the golfer, was disqualified from the Oki Open in Madrid when he failed to turn up on time. He, too, overslept. Spanish beds seem to have an awful lot going for them.

Sigh... Somewhere out there is the England Cricket team

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GOLF: RANK OUTSIDERS FORCE DEFENDING CHAMPIONS TO LOSE THEIR GRIP ON DUNHILL CUP

# Scotland's wounds reopened by India

By JOHN HOPKINS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

SOMETIMES, there is no helping Scotland when it comes to sport. The nation that sends out its sportsmen with their heads filled with choruses of *Flower of Scotland* sometimes has to welcome them back after they have brought little credit to the satire.

No one needs reminding of the day when Paraguay beat Scotland in the Dunhill Cup three years ago and it will be a long time before it is forgotten now, as defending champions, the Scots were humbled 2-1 by India at St Andrews in the same competition yesterday. After a defeat by Sweden on Thursday, Scotland are out of the twelfth Dunhill Cup.

It was a victory by rank outsiders. Whereas Montgomerie and Andrew Coltart were in the leading 70 players in the world, Jeev Singh and Gaurav Ghei are jointly 696th while Ali Sher, the third Indian, is unranked.

## TODAY'S DRAW

GROUP ONE: United States v Spain (10.01)  
Italy v England (10.30)  
GROUP TWO: Sweden v Scotland (11.00)  
India v Scotland (11.30)  
GROUP THREE: Canada v Wales (9.00)  
South Africa v Ireland (9.30)  
New Zealand v Portugal (9.30)  
Japan v Germany (12.30)



Coltart, of Scotland, who was eventually beaten by Singh, of India, at the extra hole, takes meticulous care over a birdie putt at the 3rd

Singh had to go to the extra hole before he beat Andrew Coltart, the Scot taking three putts from 35 feet. Montgomerie, ranked No 2 in the world, contributed to his own defeat. He three-putted four times and it took a birdie three on the last hole for him to break 80. Gaurav Ghei birdied the opening hole and, from that moment on, Montgomerie was up against it.

His troubles increased on the 6th, where his ball hit a rake lying outside a bunker and was deflected into the sand into a position from where he took two strokes to get out. Then the Scot three-putted the 7th. "Rakes should be in the hazard," Montgomerie said. "There are a lot of bunkers on this course and therefore a lot of rakes outside them."

Yesterday, the Old Course bared its venerable teeth. A gusting wind blew from the west and, as the skies darkened, rain showers threatened all day. Talk of new course records, prevalent when Mark O'Meara stood ten under par on the 17th tee the previous day, was blown across the sands and into the icy, white-

capped sea of St Andrews Bay.

Greg Norman, of Australia, drove out of bounds on the 14th, which he described as an inexplicable lapse of concentration. It was a difficult tee from which to drive, with the wind coming from the right bringing the Beadles bunkers into play. Jonathan Lomas had a nine there, as did Ali Sher. Greg Turner and Philip Price matched Norman's seven, and Rick Gibson, Mark Moulard and Tony Johnstone had eights.

Norman nevertheless edged home against Sven Struver, of Germany, and Wayne Riley, after driving into the Swilken Burn, beat Heinz-Peter Thul. A clean sweep was completed when Steve Elkington had a one-stroke victory.

By MEL WEBB

AN IMPORTANT team golf competition was held in Scotland yesterday — and so was the Alfred Dunhill Cup. In the one that really mattered, the Scottish regional final of *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, the prize was taken by a team whose company is devoted to the production of that most Hibernian of beverages, Scotch whisky.

The final was won by four employees of United Distillers and they did it the hard way, battling their way through high winds and bitter cold across the broad and beautiful acres of Dalmahoy to come in with a total of 86 Stableford points, one ahead of McDermott Marine Construction.

The British Pacing Group were third on countback from Ross Hall Hospital and B.F.Oil.

The winning team of Ian Ross, Gary Haggart, Barrie Miller and David Tennant won their place in this, the third in the 12-tournament regional series, by beating all-comers in their company golf day. United Distillers obviously do not believe in making things easy for their players. This year, they staged their company day at Gleneagles

and the winning quartet beat 180 fellow workers from all over central Scotland.

Democracy is quite obviously highly valued at United Distillers. All four work on the production or transport divisions of the company and their team captain is Frank Robson, the director of production, grain distilling.

Ross, a lorry driver, was the solid backbone of the team. A Clackmannanshire county player, he has recently been cut from a handicap of three to two and, on a testing day, the quality of his golf was accurately reflected in his round of

75, three over par. He scored 35 points off his own ball — and the rest all did their stuff, too. Haggart, eight handicap, scored 27, Miller picked up 30 off 12 and Tennant registered 32, a fine haul off 18.

Scott Shaw, of KFJ Resourcing Ltd, plays the 7th

Score: 86: United Distillers, 85: McDermott Marine Construction Ltd, 85: British Pacing Group, Ross Hall Hospital, 84: B.F.Oil, 83: The British Pacing Group, 82: Searle's Travel Ltd, 78: Peter Lang Investments (Scotland) Ltd, 78: B.C. Chalmers, 78: Searle's Travel Ltd, 78: Coude Carter Consultants, 78: Simpsons Mail Limited, Paul & Williams Ltd, 77: B.C. Chalmers, 76: B.C. Chalmers, 76: KFJ Resourcing Ltd, 76: AOC International Ltd, Alan Steel Asset Management, 75: B.F.Oil, 74: Ross Hall Hospital, 74: Peter Lang Investments (Scotland) Ltd, 72: Caledonian System Consultants Ltd, 72: Expro North Sea Ltd, 68: Co-operative Insurance Society, 68: Orion Engineering Services Ltd.

## Sorenstam leaves Davies trailing

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ANNIKA SORENSTAM, of Sweden, had a round of 66, six under par, to take a two-stroke lead after the first day of the inaugural Betsy King Classic women's tournament in Reading, Pennsylvania. Sorenstam, the 1995 LPGA rookie of the year, led Julie Fiers, by two shots and Cindy Schreyer, also of the United States, and Laura Davies, of Great Britain, by three.

Davies is in the middle of a string of 20 events in 21 weeks. She is second on the LPGA money-list with \$71,628 (about £50,000), trailing Karrie Webb by \$56,275. Davies is also second in Europe, trailing Helen Alfredsson, of Sweden, by \$31,26. Last year, Sorenstam became the first golfer, male or female, to top the money-list on two tours in the same year.

Next week Davies plays in Sicily. "It's a challenge," she said. "It's madness really. I'm in this position as a result of a great year. I'll probably end up with neither money nor, to top the money-list on two tours in the same year."

After two birdies and a

bogey on the front nine, Sorenstam surged home with six birdies and only one bogey on the back nine. She had three consecutive birdie putts from less than six feet. The Swede sank short birdie putts on the 15th and 16th before three-putting from 30ft on the 17th. She capped the round by chipping to within five feet and sinking the birdie putt on 18th.

"Today was just my day," Sorenstam said. "I was never in between clubs all day and I just looked at the ball and it went in. It's nice to get this round in early. I was a little nervous on the tee today because I really wanted to play well," added Sorenstam, who was coming off her worst performance of the year, a tie for thirtieth at the Big Apple Classic.

"I suppose I have been taking things for granted. Maybe I need a little nervousness to get me motivated," she said.

Seven players, including Liselotte Neumann, of Sweden, and Caroline Pierce, from Britain, were on 70.

## United Distillers taste success

By MEL WEBB

The team started on the 10th and four times in the first five holes, picked up six points. Nobody started better than United Distillers. All four work on the production or transport divisions of the company and their team captain is Frank Robson, the director of production, grain distilling.

Ross, a lorry driver, was the solid backbone of the team. A Clackmannanshire county player, he has recently been cut from a handicap of three to two and, on a testing day, the quality of his golf was accurately reflected in his round of

75, three over par. He scored 35 points off his own ball — and the rest all did their stuff, too. Haggart, eight handicap, scored 27, Miller picked up 30 off 12 and Tennant registered 32, a fine haul off 18.

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## RACING

# Its A Snip has another cut at Pardubicka



ITS A SNIP returns to Pardubice, in the Czech Republic, tomorrow for the £24,550 Veltka Pardubicka Chase, which he won last year after finishing runner-up in 1994.

On his recent reappearance at Newton Abbot, its A Snip was ridden by Charlie Mann on his two previous outings over the 31 fences of this daunting cross-country chase (4m 2½f). Richard Dunwoody takes over this time, but fellow British raider, Irish Stamp, will make sure he has no easy task.

Irish Stamp (Norman Williamson), trained by Ferdy Murphy, was second, beaten only three lengths, in the £23,330 Grand Steeplechase de Flandres at Waregem in August. The Belgian course has some similarities to Pardubice but that race was almost 1½ miles shorter than tomorrow's contest.

Sue Bramall, who is now based in Ireland, gives Veleada II (Ken Whelan) his first outing since leaving Yorkshire. This ten-year-old was a disappointing seventh in a handicap chase at Newcastle

Dunwoody: tough test

in early January, but had previously finished an encouraging third at Uttoxeter.

Scater, who has won at the course twice this year, is the best of the local runners in a maximum field of 26, which includes Vinny and Mirano, Its A Snip's closest pursuers last year.

Dai Williams runs Set The Fashion in the £10,870 Pivovar Pardubice St Leger (1m 6f) at the Czech course today.

## Revoque heads Criterion raid

THERE will be three British runners in the group one Grand Criterion at Longchamp tomorrow, with Peter Chapple-Hyam's 2,000 Guineas fancy, Revoque, leading the way.

John Reid's mount aims to maintain his unbeaten record in this one-mile contest, having already taken the group one Prix de la Salamandre last month.

### RACING NEXT WEEK

**MONDAY:** Leicester (first race, 2.00), Newton Abbot (2.15).  
**TUESDAY:** Leicester (2.00), Sedgemoor (2.15).  
**WEDNESDAY:** Exeter (2.10), Haydock Park (2.30), Wetherby (2.20).  
**THURSDAY:** Newmarket (2.4), 1300, Redcar (2.4), 14.00, Taunton (2.4).  
**FRIDAY:** Catterick Bridge (2.10), Hesford (1.50), Newmarket (2.4).  
**SATURDAY:** Catterick Bridge (2.05), Kelsi (2.00), Kempton Park (2.15), Newmarket (C. 1.45), Stratford (2.25), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00).  
 Flat meetings in bold

## WORCESTER

### THUNDERER

2.25 Hamdayed, 2.55 Imperial Vintage, 3.25 Agastra, 3.55 Philip's Woody, 4.30 Super Sharp, 5.00 La Menorquina.

### GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

### 2.25 DUNCAN FEARNLEY AMATEUR RIDERS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,087- 2m) (14 runners)

1 1530 FORTRESS 10 (D.F.) M Pipe 4-11-10 R Tidmarsh 5 11-12  
 2 1540 HAMADAYED 10 (D.F.) M Pipe 4-11-10 R Tidmarsh 5 11-12  
 3 1545 IMPERIAL VINTAGE 10 (D.F.) M Pipe 4-11-10 R Tidmarsh 5 11-12  
 4 1548 AGAstra 26 (M.C.) 4-11-10 R Tidmarsh 5 11-12  
 5 1550 SUPER SHARP 26 (M.C.) 4-11-10 R Tidmarsh 5 11-12  
 6 1552 PHILIP'S WOODY 35 (B.B.) D Sutcliffe 10-7 J Pogson 7  
 7 1555 COPPER DIAMOND 35 (B.B.) D Sutcliffe 10-7 J Pogson 7  
 8 1556 AGAstra 26 (M.C.) 4-11-10 R Tidmarsh 5 11-12  
 9 1557 LA MENORQUINA 26 (M.C.) 4-11-10 R Tidmarsh 5 11-12  
 10 1558 HAMDAYED 26 (M.C.) 4-11-10 R Tidmarsh 5 11-12  
 11 1559 PHILIP'S WOODY 26 (M.C.) 4-11-10 R Tidmarsh 5 11-12  
 12 1560 SUPER SHARP 26 (M.C.) 4-11-10 R Tidmarsh 5 11-12  
 13 1561 COPPER DIAMOND 26 (M.C.) 4-11-10 R Tidmarsh 5 11-12  
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 15 1563 HAMDAYED 26 (M.C.) 4-11-10 R Tidmarsh 5 11-12  
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 68 1616 COPPER DIAMOND 26 (M.C.) 4-11-10 R Tidmarsh 5 11-12  
 69 1617 AGAstra 26 (M.C.) 4-11-10 R Tidmarsh 5 11-12  
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## THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

## ARSENAL

Highbury is churning out rumours of massive profits with shares allegedly being transferred at up to £22,000 each. David Dein, the vice-chairman, is said to have made anything up to £5 million; Danny Fiszman is now chief shareholder. What Arsenal need is some straightforward PR. This is Arsène Wenger's first match in charge. He has made soothing noises to his present squad and recommended a couple of Frenchmen, who seem unlikely to cut the mustard. BG

## DERBY COUNTY

Paul McGrath is in, but Jim Smith, the manager, has denied that Paolo Alves, the Portugal international forward from Sporting Lisbon will be the next arrival at the club. Smith spoke to the player's agent but balked at the all-in cost close to £2 million. Derby have scored just once in their past three Premiership games. Smith, though, believes Dean Sturridge and Ashley Ward, recovered after a hernia operation, will come good together, in time. RH

## MANCHESTER UNITED

With several players away until Thursday, the morning kick-off today presented Alex Ferguson, the manager, with some logistical problems, but he is quite pleased with the early start to allow time to get ready for the Champions' League match in Turkey on Wednesday. "We could have been playing at 4pm on Sunday," he pointed out. "That extra 30 hours is vital when you are preparing for Europe." Philip Neville begins his return this morning, but in the second team. PB

## ASTON VILLA

Villa Park's rumour factory worked overtime when it became known that Brian Little, the Villa manager, was taking Spanish lessons. Was he being lined up for the top job at Real Madrid? Had Barcelona already fallen out with Bobby Robson? The truth was less dramatic. Little has a holiday home in Majorca and, when he takes a break from the pressures and strains of life, he would like to converse more with the natives. Hence his two-hour tutorials in conversational Spanish. Olé! RK

## EVERTON

Having ended the search for a win by beating Sheffield Wednesday, Joe Royle, the Everton manager, is hoping that the subsequent two-week gap will not interrupt the start of a run, and he has named an unchanged side for the game against West Ham today. He is still looking to strengthen his squad and next week Robert Tomaschek, Slovak Bratislava's 24-year-old midfield player, starts a trial period. Tomaschek had previously been on trial with West Ham. PB

## SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Benito Carbone will travel to Selhurst Park, but sadly for Sheffield Wednesday supporters, as a spectator rather than player. The proposed £2.6 million transfer of the midfield player from Internazionale was not completed in time to allow his debut against Wimbledon — no doubt much to his relief. Wednesday are faced with a serious defensive headache, because of a suspension for Des Walker, but Jon Newsome could return after a long lay-off to plug the gap. DM

## SUNDERLAND

Only Liverpool and Manchester United boast better defensive records than Sunderland, who have conceded just six goals in eight Premiership fixtures. Scoring goals is a problem, something exacerbated by the likely absence of the injured Niall Quinn from the match on Monday with Middlesbrough. Craig Russell or David Kelly will deputise. The pursuit of a new striking partner for Quinn and a genuine right winger continues apace for Peter Reid, the manager. LT

## BLACKBURN ROVERS

The search for a striker continues, but it could soon be ended. Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, confirmed yesterday that talks are progressing with Oliver Bierhoff — the man whose goals won the European championship for Germany — and a conclusion is in sight. "We are still talking to Oliver and his advisers," he said. "I believe he would come here, and I believe Udinese would sell him to us, but only if they can get a replacement. It is the age-old problem." DM

## LEEDS UNITED

Tomas Brolin may never return, but at least George Graham is getting one or two of his senior players back as he searches for his first Premiership victory against Nottingham Forest. Ian Rush and Mark Hateley are both in the squad and so is Tony Dorigo after an eight-month absence. The signing of Brolin, though, seems to have a less happy ending. "If Leeds won't release me, I will retire from football," he told Peter McCormick, the club solicitor. PB

## NEWCASTLE UNITED

A far cry from the bad old days of the 1980s at St James' Park this week, with virtually all of the players on international duty. The downside is that Kevin Keegan, the manager, will have to wait until Saturday to find if he has a full squad to choose from. Pavel Srnicek arrived back only last night, and Faustino Asprilla will be driven from Heathrow to Derby today. Keegan's greatest concern is for a player left behind in midfield. David Ginola, whom the French ignored yet again. DM

## CHELSEA

Rutod Gullit is not quite ready to play at Leicester and Chelsea's past three matches suggest they badly need his influence. The defence, which no longer looks the bulwark it initially did, will not find it easy to subdue the powerful 18-year-old Heskey, who can roar down the flank. And it will be interesting to see if Gullit gives a fresh chance to the young midfield player from down the road, Jody Morris. The more he plays, the more confident he will get. BG

## LEICESTER CITY

Martin O'Neill, the manager, breathed a sigh of relief when Emile Heskey reported back fully fit after his full England Under-21 debut in midweek. Heskey hit a post, won a penalty and generally demonstrated why, at 18, he is among the most exciting young strikers in the country. O'Neill has dismissed reports of a £3 million bid from Liverpool as "utter balderdash," but said: "In a short space of time he has become very important for us." RH

## COVENTRY CITY

Coventry's lack of goalscoring prowess has been mostly responsible for their parlous predicament near the foot of the Premiership. Three goals in eight matches — they have failed to score in six of them — does not exactly bode well for the arduous months ahead. Perhaps the imminent return of Peter Ndlovu, the Zimbabwean striker, will buck up their ideas up front. Ndlovu has not played this season, after undergoing knee surgery, but should soon be back. Hurry up: times are desperate. RK

## LIVERPOOL

Stan Collymore plays, but will he be playing for a move? It is no secret that there is tension at Anfield over the £8 million forward, and the suggestion is that Roy Evans, the manager, is casting around for a replacement, with Emile Heskey, of Leicester, highly regarded. Much is expected of Collymore with Fowler still injured, but he has a knack of delivering at Old Trafford. He scored a wonderful goal there two seasons ago to end a long Manchester United unbeaten run. DM

## BLACKBURN ROVERS v ARSENAL

TICKETS: Seats available  
10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 1-1, 3-1, 1-1

## HOW THEY LINE UP

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T. Flowers, G. Croft, N. Marker, T. Sherwood, L. Bohnen, G. Donis, J. Wilcox, C. Sutton, K. Gallacher, J. Kenna, H. Berg, I. Pearce, G. Pilkington, S. Ripley, N. Gudmundsson, S. Givens, W. McKinlay, G. Fenlon, M. Brookes, D. Out, J. Beattie.

ARSENAL (from): D. Seaman, L. Dixon, M. Keown, A. Adams, S. Bould, N. Winterburn, D. Platt, P. Merson, P. Vieira, R. Partrout, J. Wright, J. Hartson, G. Helder, P. Shaw, M. Rose, A. Lingard, J. Lukic.

## DERBY COUNTY v NEWCASTLE UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out  
10-YEAR RECORD: -2-1, 2-0, --, -4-1, 1-2, --, --

## HOW THEY LINE UP

DERBY COUNTY (from): R. Hoult, G. Rowett, C. Powell, D. Powell, I. Stimpson, P. McGrath, I. Laursen, C. Daily, D. Sturridge, A. Ward, A. Asanovic, M. Gabbiedin, P. Simpson, M. Cullen, L. Carsey, J. Culy.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): P. Srnicek, W. Barton, J. Beresford, D. Batty, D. Peacock, R. Lee, P. Beardsley, A. Shearer, L. Ferdinand, P. Elliott, D. Gindol, S. Hislop, K. Gillespie, S. Watson, L. Clark, P. Albert, P. Kitson.

## EVERTON v WEST HAM UNITED

TICKETS: Seats available  
10-YEAR RECORD: 4-0, 3-1, 3-1, --, 4-0, 0-1, 1-0, 3-0

## HOW THEY LINE UP

EVERTON (from): N. Southall, M. Hottiger, E. Barnet, D. Unsworth, C. Short, A. Hinchliffe, J. Ebdon, J. Parkinson, A. Lampard, A. Kanchelev, A. Grant, M. Branch, G. Sturt, G. Speed, P. Gerrard, M. Jackson

WEST HAM UNITED (from): L. Mihaleko, T. Bresciano, K. Rowland, S. Biles, J. Dicks, F. Lampard, D. Lee, S. Jones, M. Hughes, S. Lazaridis, S. Maitone, M. Bowen, F. Redicchio, I. Dumitrescu, S. Potts, J. Morcuri, A. Coffey, J. Bishop, H. Portillo.

## TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR v ASTON VILLA

TICKETS: Seats available  
10-YEAR RECORD: 3-0, --, 2-0, 2-1, 2-0, 0-0, 1-1, 3-4, 0-1

## HOW THEY LINE UP

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): Walker, S. Campbell, C. Calderwood, C. Wilson, D. Howells, R. Fox, E. Sheringham, A. Sinton, R. Rosenthal, S. Carr, S. Netherton, J. Edinburgh, E. Beardson, A. Nielsen, D. Kerse, D. Hill, N. Fenn.

ASTON VILLA (from): M. Oakes, F. Nelson, A. Wright, U. Ehiogu, R. Schmitz, S. Staunton, M. Draper, A. Townsend, J. Flanagan, S. Curcio, D. Torka, S. Milosevic, J. Johnson, J. Joschim, G. Farrelly, L. Hendrie, A. Rachell, M. Borenius.

## SUNDERLAND v MIDDLESBROUGH

TICKETS: Seats available  
10-YEAR RECORD: --, --, 2-1, --, 1-0, --, 2-1, 0-1, --

## HOW THEY LINE UP

SUNDERLAND (from): A. Colton, D. Pearce, D. Kubicki, G. Hall, P. Bracewell, K. Bell, A. Mowle, P. Ord, S. Agnew, P. Stewart, C. Russell, M. Gray, L. Howey, M. Bridges, S. Ashton, M. Smith, A. Rae, D. Kelly

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): A. Miller, G. Welsh, N. Cox, G. Fleming, S. Vickers, N. Pearson, D. Whyley, N. Barnby, Emerson, F. Ravanelli, J. Juninho, A. Moore, R. Musto, Branco, P. Whelan, M. Beck, J. Hendrie, P. Stamp, C. Hignett, C. Liddle, B. Roberts.

## LEEDS UNITED v NOTTINGHAM FOREST

TICKETS: Seats available  
10-YEAR RECORD: --, --, --, 3-1, 1-0, 1-4, --, 1-0, 1-3

## HOW THEY LINE UP

LEEDS UNITED (from): N. Marthyn, G. Kelly, D. Wetherall, R. Jobson, I. Rush, A. Dongor, R. Wallace, A. Coopers, M. Ford, L. Sharpe, M. Hales, J. Grant, C. G. Branch, M. Kewell, L. Radice, P. Beasley, W. Boyle, M. Tinkler, J. Blunt, J. Mullan.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M. Crossley, A. Fettis, D. Lyttle, S. Pearce, C. Cooper, S. Crichton, N. Jerkun, S. Blatherwick, D. Phillips, A. Haskett, C. Bart-Williams, S. Gemmill, I. Woan, C. Allen, D. Saunders, B. Roy, J. Lee.

## WIMBLEDON v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

TICKETS: Seats available  
10-YEAR RECORD: 3-0, 1-1, 1-0, 1-1, --, 2-1, 1-1, 21, 0-1, 2-2

## HOW THEY LINE UP

WIMBLEDON (from): N. Sullivan, K. Cunningham, B. Thatcher, O. Lindhardsen, M. Gayle, D. Holdsworth, E. Buckley, A. Clarke, J. Goodman, N. Ardley, M. Hartard, J. Eustace, P. Peacock, P. Head

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): J. Newsome, S. Oakes, J. Nolan, S. Nicol, G. Whittington, A. Booth, M. Bright, D. Hirst, L. Briscoe, O. Trustfull

## WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

10.30am Sky Sports Manchester United v Liverpool (live)

10.40pm BBC1 Match of the Day (highlights)

11.00am Sky Sports Goals on Sunday

3pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday

7pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday night football

Sunderland v Middlesbrough (live)

## LEICESTER CITY v CHELSEA

TICKETS: Sold out  
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-2, --, 2-0, --, --, --, --, 1-1, --

## HOW THEY LINE UP

LEICESTER CITY (from): K. Keeler, S. Gregson, M. Whitlow, J. Watts, S. Prior, S. Walsh, N. Lennon, I. Marshall, M. Izzet, E. Healey, S. Cladding, M. Robins, G. Parker, N. Lewis, J. Lawrence, K. Poole.

CHELSEA (from): K. Hitchcock, D. Petrescu, T. Phelan, F. Leboeuf, S. Clarke, M. Myers, N. Hughes, D. Wise, D. Lee, C. Surley, R. Di Matteo, G. Vieira, S. D. Johnson, G. Peacock, J. Morris, E. Newton, M. Nicholls, F. Groves.

## LEADING SCORERS

6: J. Wright (Arsenal), F. Ravanelli (Middlesbrough), L. Ferdinand (Newcastle United).

5: A. Shearer (Newcastle United), F. Laboeuf (Chelsea), P. Berger (Liverpool), E. Cantona (Manchester United), J. Juninho (Middlesbrough), K. Campbell (Nottingham Forest), M. Le Tissier (Southampton), E. Bokota (Wimbledon).

4: J. Harrison (Arsenal), D. Yorke (Aston Villa), G. Vialli (Chelsea), E. Heskey (Leicester City), S. McNamee (Liverpool), A. Booth (Sheffield Wednesday), R. Humphreys (Sheffield Wednesday), C. Armstrong (Tottenham Hotspur), M. Hughes (West Ham United), R. Earle (Wimbledon), M. Gayle (Wimbledon).

The official internet site of the FA Carling Premiership is at <http://www.ifa-carling.com/>

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10.40pm BBC1 Match of the Day (highlights)

11.00am Sky Sports Goals on Sunday

3pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday

7pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday night football

Sunderland v Middlesbrough (live)

الآن من الأصل





## RUGBY UNION 41

Lynagh warns  
Euro-sceptics  
of Italian threat

# SPORT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 1996

## GOLF 43

England and  
Scotland left  
pondering defeat



# Hill relaxed as he approaches destiny

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FROM OLIVER HOLT  
IN SUZUKA

THERE is an image that Damon Hill has had in his mind this past week: a scene from a film that woke him from his sleep in the middle of the night on Thursday. It was a film about a running man, a man trying to escape a tribe that is tracking him down somewhere in 19th-century Africa, a man who runs and runs for his life. It was called *The Naked Prey*.

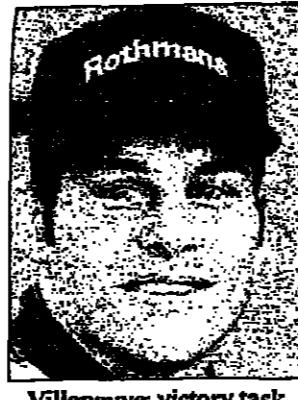
Here in Japan, too. Most of his pursuers have fled away, undone either by their own misfortunes and inadequacies or the Englishman's refusal to be caught. They have tried to chase him down, right from the start of the Formula One motor racing season, from the moment that he won the first race, in Melbourne. Now, only one of the hunters remains, and Hill is in the last stages of his flight, almost in sight of sanctuary.

Yet still the film stays on his mind. He has been a target for

one kind of predator or another for too long now. If it was not the lawyers who pursued his penniless family after the death of his father, Graham, the world champion in 1962 and 1968, in a plane crash in 1975, it was the critics who scoffed that he would never be a racing driver like "old man", or the doubters who said that he did not have it in him to be the world champion. Somehow, there has always been something innately vulnerable about him.

He could not remember the ending of *The Naked Prey* when he talked about it again yesterday, but tomorrow, in the 53 laps of the Japanese Grand Prix, he has one last chance to write the script himself, one golden opportunity to stop running and stand and face his peers, proud of what he has achieved and unfurling in the face of whatever criticism remains.

Even if Jacques Villeneuve, his Williams-Renault teammate and the sole remaining title challenger, wins the race on the high-speed circuit, full



### DETAILS FROM SUZUKA

PRACTICE TIMES: 1. G Berger (Austria, Benetton) 1:42.824; 2. M Häkkinen (Fin, McLaren) 1:42.824; 3. M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1:43.372; 4. J Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 1:43.372; 5. D Hill (GB, Williams) 1:43.747; 6. M Brundle (GB, Arrows) 1:43.822; 7. E Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 1:44.026; 8. R Barrichello (Br, Jordan) 1:44.441; 9. H-H Frentzen (Ger, Sauber) 1:44.589; 10. M. Moreno (Tyrrell) 1:44.597; 11. D Herbert (GB, McLaren) 1:45.194; 12. D Coulthard (GB, McLaren) 1:45.471; 13. U Katayama (Japan, Tyrrell) 1:45.789; 14. O Panis (Fr, Ligier) 1:45.983; 15. J. Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 1:46.105; 16. R Rosset (Fr, Footwork) 1:47.285; 18. P. Lamby (Por, Minardi) 1:48.724; 19. G Larocci (It, Minardi) 1:50.227; 20. P. Diniz (Br, Ugoletti) 2:02.130.

Villeneuve victory task

of undulations and fast corners that the drivers love, Hill, 36, only has to finish in the top six and score one point to secure his first world championship.

He would become the first British holder of the title since Nigel Mansell, his predecessor at Williams, won it four years ago. It would be a fitting end to his four-year career at Williams, a means of ensuring a flood of lucrative sponsorship offers for next season.

Williams-Renault was camouflaged by capricious weather — soaking wet in the morning, drying rapidly in the afternoon — that prevented him and Villeneuve from working on a consistent set-up. Fine weather in qualifying should ensure that the title protagonists start alongside each other on the front row of the grid.

Hill has emphasised again and again that he does not want to win the championship by dint of a collision. He gave no hint yesterday of whether his thoughts have crystallised over whether to try to out-

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one that ended the championship duel between Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost here six years ago. Hill can afford to go, no holds barred, into the corner, and Villeneuve must go all out for victory and brook no compromise.

Hill has emphasised again and again that he does not want to win the championship by dint of a collision. He gave no hint yesterday of whether his thoughts have crystallised over whether to try to out-

Hill: determined

Hill said: "It will be poignant from that point of view for me. I have made a lot of friends at Williams and enjoyed working with them. It is the end of an era. When I started with them, I had not won a race. Anything of significance that has happened to me has been

dislodged him.

"I do not think there is any way I am going to get it out of my mind that this is a very important race," Hill said. "It is going to be the most crucial race of my life, but I am ready for it and I know what I have to do. I have learnt to accept that there is a lot within my control, but there are factors I can do nothing about."

Hill, who has won seven races already this season, is confident, too, that he will receive equal treatment from Williams, even though Villeneuve will remain with the team next season. Williams has even flown out two spare cars to ensure parity for each driver. His rivals are unanimous that Hill deserves the championship. At a press conference yesterday, Frank Williams, the team owner, went so far as to say it would be "nice" if Hill won the title.

"The race will be the last time I drive a Williams car,"

Hill said. "It will be poignant from that point of view for me. I have made a lot of friends at Williams and enjoyed working with them. It is the end of an era. When I started with them, I had not won a race. Anything of significance that has happened to me has been

dislodged him.

Villeneuve, who has appeared equally relaxed despite the pressures, contented himself with saying that the ball was in Hill's court, reiterating that the pressure was on Hill.

When he left the track in his hotel last night, though, the image of the running man was still playing in Hill's head. "He ran and ran," he said, "and every time he thought he could not run any more, that he had to stop, he saw the tribe chasing him and he kept on going."

Tomorrow, though, Hill can banish *The Naked Prey* from his thoughts at last. The running man has been fleeing for long enough. He has earned a long, long rest.

Old Trafford hosts valuable pointer to outcome of race for FA Carling Premiership

## Traditional powers in summit meeting

BY DAVID MADDOK

IT IS tempting to regard the contest between Manchester United and Liverpool today as more than a significant pointer to the destination of this season's FA Carling Premiership title. It is, in effect, a meeting of the old guard and the new, old style football finance and the way forward for the game.

If United are the undisputed leaders off the field, then a strong case can be made, so far this season, for Liverpool being the leaders on it. They are top of the FA Carling Premiership and have embraced tactics that seem more sophisticated than their rivals.

The match today will explore just how far Roy Evans' side has come because, as the Liverpool manager himself says, to finish ahead of Manchester United will, in all probability, mean finishing first. "This one match won't decide anything," he said. "But we do know that we will have to be more consistent than United to win the title. We don't want to lose any game, but we particularly don't want to lose this one."

Just how advanced Liverpool's wing-back formation is, will be tested fully in front of a 55,000 Old Trafford crowd.

Steve McManaman, in his free role behind the front two, will be pivotal to how they fare, especially in the absence of the injured Robbie Fowler.

For England in midweek, McManaman was not seen at his best because some poor quality distribution from the back offered him little of the ball. United will counter the threat of McManaman with Butt lying deep in midfield, and Cantona will be asked to



Patrik Berger, the Liverpool midfield player, after a final training session yesterday before the visit to Old Trafford

find ways around the three-man back line of the visitors. Otherwise their line-up should be unchanged.

Cantona said: "It is important of course to win, but it is important not to lose. We are four points behind, and is vital at this stage we don't drop too far behind them. I know that if we don't lose too many points now then at the end of the season we will beat everyone and win the title. We always finish strong, but we must not leave ourselves too much to do."

Today's game will kick-off at 11.30am because of television demands. United refused to play on Sunday because of their midweek commitments in the European Cup Champions League, and this, apparently, is the only television slot that could be found.

Shares soar, page 23  
Czech mates, page 47  
Weekend View, page 47

FAUSTINO ASPRILLA, the Colombia and Newcastle United forward, has gone missing. He was due to drive to the Hungarian Embassy in London to obtain a visa for the UEFA Cup trip. Without it, the player would not be able to travel.

Asprilla: missing

Asprilla was stranded in Bogota and couldn't go. Although he has since taken off, we don't know where he is. We're trying to locate him," Paul Stevens, the Newcastle operations manager, was waiting

for Asprilla at Heathrow. He was due to drive him to the Hungarian Embassy in London to obtain a visa for the UEFA Cup trip. Without it, the player would not be able to travel.

It is not the first time that Asprilla, a £7.5 million signing from Parma, of Italy, has gone absent without leave during his career. He disappeared on the eve of an international match last season and was found drinking with friends at a horse show.

Asprilla, who scored the goal in Colombia's 1-0 win over Ecuador on Wednesday, has voiced his discontent at not being given a regular place in the Newcastle line-up this season. He has started only five of the side's 11 matches, scoring one goal.

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

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Singapore	£3.29	£5.89	44%

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## Clandestine meeting may provide solution

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) met yesterday at a secret venue with representatives of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epru) in the hope of concluding the protracted dispute that has caused the clubs to threaten a breakaway from their governing body.

It is the intention of both sides to remain in touch until a resolution has been found or talks break down irretrievably. All being well, a joint statement may be made today, but the discussion could be prolonged throughout the weekend. The leading issues revolve around the organisation of competitive structures

— the subject of discussions in Rome this week involving six European countries — and the money to be derived from them.

There is little point in the clubs trying to duplicate the support services that the RFU can offer, but the union, for its part, seeks to ensure the availability of leading players for representative games.

Epru's hopes of winning support in Scotland appear to have been lowered this week as 36 leading players signed contracts with the Scottish Rugby Union, which include the 1999 World Cup.

Continental drift, page 41

Edward Gorman finds Britain's Melges sailors overshadowed in Barcelona

Pereira Torregrosa and Tono Garcia, who are all sailing Garvalin yachts owned by Vincente Garcia.

Despite the fact that two British boats — those of Kim Slater and David Sheldock — and one Norwegian yacht were also disqualified, the Spanish concluded that the jury was acting unfairly. Their reaction was partly because the regatta is likely to be decided without a discard after the days lost to the lack of wind so making a disqualification a disaster.

Doreste was also smarting because he was lying second overall behind John

game," he said. The jury is made up of experienced sailors from six European nations and is chaired by the Spaniard, Jose Ma de Barenco.

Merrick, of Great Britain, after beating the 470 silver medal-winner in the second race on Thursday. In a letter signed by Doreste and posted on the race noticeboard before the start of racing yesterday, the Spanish skipper said he felt "misrepresented" by the jury. The first race had been abandoned because of a "strange and unclear decision".

"All this, together with what we have been told from the rest of the Spanish fleet about the behaviour of the jury towards them, makes us think this event is not being held fairly and we do not feel ready to carry on playing this

BT Global chart, page 47

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# Mandela defends judge's acquittal of apartheid general

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN CAPE TOWN

be poignant view for me, of friends at joyed work is the end of started with won a race, fancies that he has been

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MAGNUS MALAN, the former South African Defence Minister, and nine other co-accused walked free from Durban Supreme Court yesterday after being acquitted on charges of murder and conspiracy to murder.

Cheers and applause filled the courtroom as Mr Justice Jan Hugo gave his ruling at the end of the six-month trial. On Thursday, the judge had acquitted six other men, supporters of the Inkatha Freedom Party, who were accused of carrying out the 1987 KwaMakhuwa massacre of 13 people at the house of an African National Congress supporter and a Zulu village near Durban.

Outside the court, General Malan, 65, said that he was relieved and in a statement thanked President Mandela for giving him and his co-defendants the opportunity to defend themselves in court. The ANC in KwaZulu/Natal expressed its disappointment, saying the prosecution failed "our people". A party spokesman on safety and security said the outcome undermined its faith in the judicial system.

Mr Mandela last night called on South Africans to respect the decision of the judge, who is white, to acquit

the former defence chief. He said that his Government would continue to investigate apartheid atrocities and find those responsible for killings or directing the killers.

The President reaffirms that the courts are the institutions to determine the guilt of the accused and indeed the judicial findings must be respected, even, or especially, by those who are aggrieved by those findings, a presidential statement said.

The State had alleged that General Malan and the co-accused apartheid security chiefs had given their blessing for the creation of a cover-up to support Inkatha in its fight against the United Democratic Front, the surrogate of the then banned ANC, and approved the attack on KwaMakhuwa by the six.

General Malan, the Defence Minister between 1980 and 1991, was one of the most feared and hated figures of the apartheid era, and the former ruling National Party has claimed the trial was politically motivated. The case went to the heart of the role the former South African Government played in stoking up conflict between Inkatha and the ANC from the mid-1980s in KwaZulu/Natal by providing

"third force" training and support for Inkatha.

The investigation into KwaMakhuwa was revived by a task unit appointed by the Government and a failure of the State's case, which has cost taxpayers nine million rand (£1.28 million), will add to the frustration of those who believe that neither the courts nor the Truth and Reconciliation Commission are exposing or punishing those who ran the brutal former regime.

Mr Justice Hugo, pronouncing judgment, said it was apparent General Malan was involved in establishing Operation Marlin to cover-up support for Inkatha, but had not intended or foreseen the activities that would flow from it. The judge singled out Tim McNally, KwaZulu/Natal's attorney-general and state prosecutor, for not calling witnesses from the initial list submitted to the court who might have supported the evidence of other state witnesses. Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, was mentioned several times in the indictment and there had been criticism that Mr McNally's failure to call him was

political.

Leading article, page 19



President Havel of the Czech Republic salutes his guests, President Sharma of India, in the right direction while reviewing a guard of honour in Prague yesterday. Before arriving for a two-day stay, Mr Sharma visited Slovakia.

cultural agreements between India and the two countries which made up the Czechoslovak federation before they divided peacefully in January 1993. Mr Sharma was also due to meet Vaclav Klaus, the Czech Prime Minister. (AP)

Guiding hand for Indian leader accompanied by ministers and state governors. The visits are intended to secure investment protection and



Mrs Mugabe on her wedding day

## Mugabe's lavish lifestyle attacked

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

PRESIDENT Mugabe was dragged deeper into controversy over his newly extravagant lifestyle yesterday, with the revelation that his Government is building a 30-room mansion for his young wife, Grace.

The privately owned Zimbabwe Independent quoted state construction workers at the 13-acre site in the capital as saying several alterations had been made to the double-storey residence at her suggestion.

Jane Reno, US Attorney-General, praised police in Britain, France and Thailand for "unprecedented co-operation" with the American investigators. None of the suspects taken into custody was British.

The role of Nigerians in drug smuggling has been known for several years and the trafficking has grown under the protection of General Sani Abacha, the country's military ruler. The timing of yesterday's arrests could blunt criticism by Bob Dole and the Republicans that President Clinton has been losing the war on drugs.

It is the fourth large official residence the Mugabe family has access to in Harare, and is costing as much as Mr Mugabe and the state spent on his lavish wedding in mid-August, which was attended by about 25,000 people and turned into a three-day binge.

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# Timorese crusaders win Nobel Peace Prize

FROM DAVID WATTS  
IN BANGKOK



THE Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to José Ramos-Horta and Bishop Carlos Belo of Dili for their efforts to wrest control of the former Portuguese colony of East Timor from Indonesia.

Bishop Belo in particular, plays a courageous role from his cathedral in the heart of the East Timorese capital, Dili, trying to mediate between an Indonesian military that has often resorted to brutal methods and young East Timorese propelled by hatred generated through a series of massacres. Mr Ramos-Horta, spokesman and leader of the Fretilin Independence Movement, travels extensively trying to mobilise support for independence for the territory.

President Sampaio of Portugal, which champions the East Timorese cause, said: "The award reflects their indefatigable work in the service of human rights and peace in the territory."

The award is the more embarrassing for the Indone-

in inciting the people of East Timor to separate from the unitary republic of Indonesia," the Indonesian Foreign Ministry said.

Mr Ramos-Horta, a soft-spoken and modest man who is regularly pilloried by the Indonesian Government, said in Sydney that the prize should rightfully go to Xanana Gusmão, the military leader of the East Timorese resistance, who is in a Jakarta jail after being captured by the Indonesian Army last year. Saluting Mr Gusmão, he said: "He's an outstanding man of peace and democracy, a man of courage."

The award will also embarrass the Government of Australia, which is the only country in the world to recognise the Indonesian annexation of East Timor in 1976. Canberra's recognition was soon followed by a treaty on the exploitation of oil beneath the East Timor Sea, a move that enraged Australian veterans who remember the heroism of the Timorese during the Second World War when they often put the safety of Australian troops before their own.

sian Government since President Suharto is due to visit the territory in four days' time to unveil a statue of Christ, intended as a gesture of reconciliation by the rulers of the world's most populous Muslim country.

The choice of recipient angered the Jakarta Government last night. "We are quite surprised and regret that such a reputable institution could honour a person like Ramos-Horta, who had been involved

East Timor and its struggle rarely makes the news unless Timorese are dying in their attempts to drive out the three divisions of Indonesian troops. The worst violence since the annexation flared in 1991 when the army put down a pro-independence demonstration, killing up to 200 people, many of whom had fled into a cemetery.

Despite regular condemnation by the United Nations committee on decolonisation, the Indonesian Government has consistently refused to hold a referendum on the future of the territory. Portugal makes the case for East Timor inside the European Union, but the organisation prefers not to jeopardise the lucrative business relationships with a country which is developing rapidly.

■ Jakarta: Five people died when a mob burnt nine churches, four Christian schools and a convent in the Indonesian town of Situbondo. Officials said nearly 3,000 people rioted after a court hearing into a case of alleged blasphemy against Islam. (Reuters)



José Ramos-Horta, the joint winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for his fight to free Timor

WORLD SUMMARY

## Laureate is found dead

New York: Three days after winning the Nobel Prize for Economics, William Vickrey was yesterday found dead behind the wheel of his car. He was 82.

Dr Vickrey, who was travelling to an academic conference, was found unconscious at the wheel on Thursday night and was pronounced dead early yesterday. At the family's request, the cause of death was not immediately released. It was not immediately clear what would be done with Dr Vickrey's half-share of the \$1.2 million (£75,000) prize money. (AP)

## Polling starts in New Zealand

Wellington: New Zealanders go to the polls today with a coalition government the likely outcome of the country's first general election under proportional representation (Jo Andrews writes).

Opinion polls suggest that James Bolger, the Prime Minister, or Helen Clarke, the Labour leader, will need the help of the nationalist New Zealand First party to govern.

## Israel to ease security net

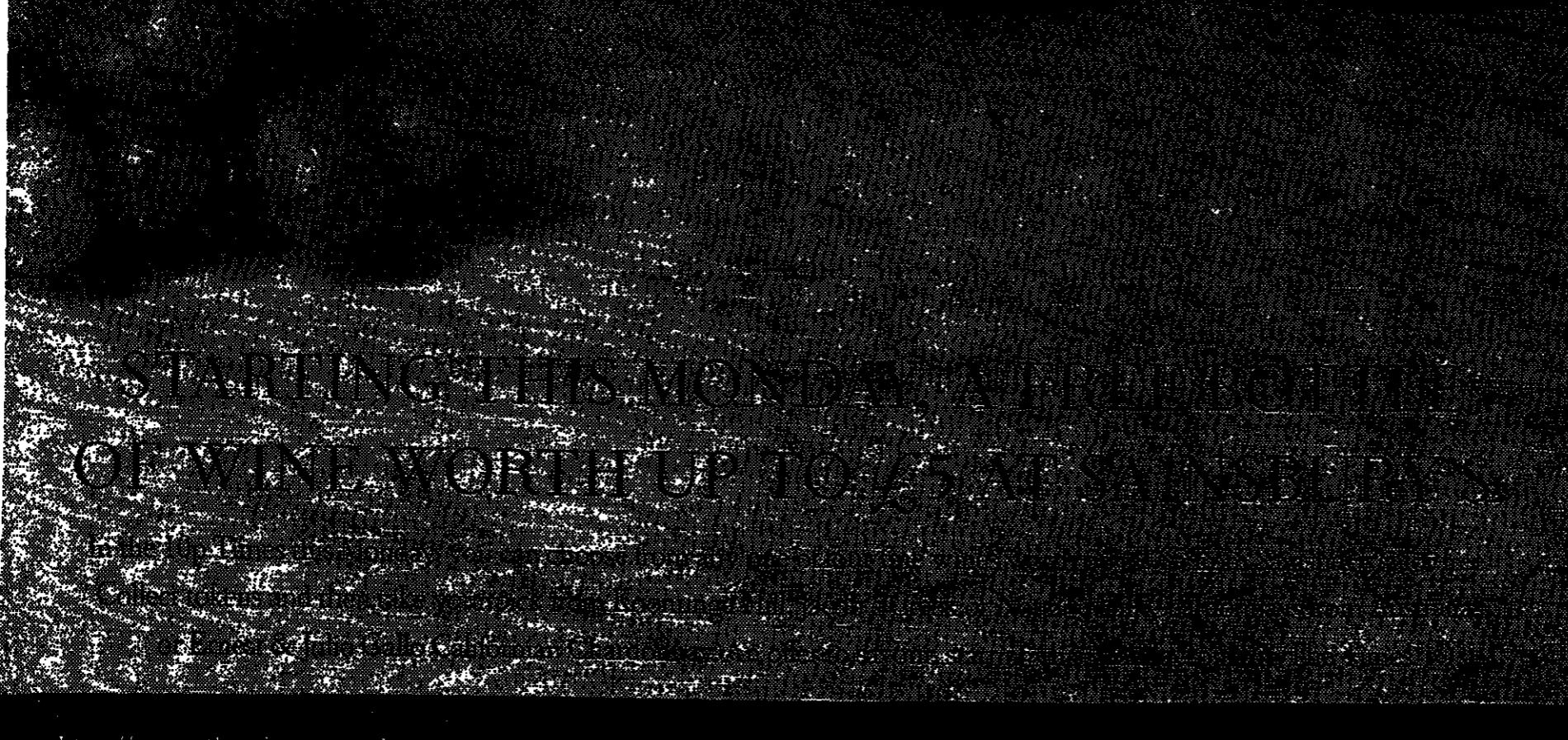
Jerusalem: Israel will tomorrow ease its security clampdown on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, granting 35,000 Palestinians permits to work again in the West Bank and removing the seal around most Palestinian-controlled cities (Christopher Walker writes). The move is going ahead despite intelligence warnings of new attacks by Islamic suicide bombers.

## Spirit moves mayors to strike

Cognac: Mayors and municipal councillors in the cognac-producing region of Charente, western France, have gone on unlimited strike to protest against a government decision to increase taxes on spirits by 17 per cent. The move, aimed at cutting the social security deficit, prompted towns allowed by law to produce cognac to fly the French flag at half-mast. (AFP)

## Firewater

Stockholm: Thousands of gallons of confiscated smuggled and bootleg vodka will be converted to methane gas to fire heating in the Swedish capital this winter, customs officials said. (Reuters)



## Yeltsin's 'Rasputin' goes on offensive

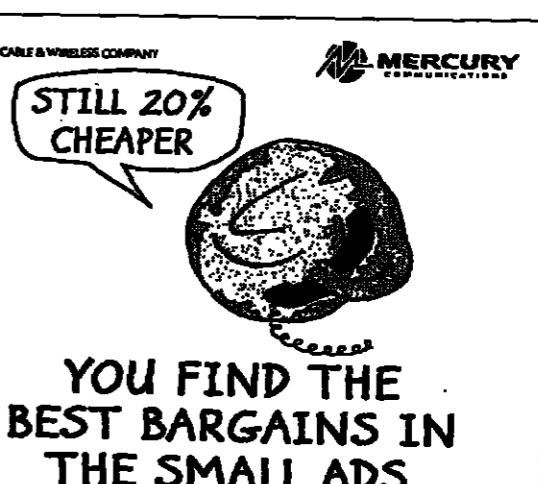
FROM THOMAS DE WAAL  
IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN'S former chief bodyguard, General Aleksandr Korzhakov, once the power behind the throne in the Kremlin, emerged yesterday to deny the allegation that he had extorted \$40 million (£25.8 million).

This sudden public foray by General Korzhakov, who is referred to as a 'Rasputin' by his enemies, was prompted by accusations on television last Sunday that he tried to extort the money from Boris Yeforov, the former head of the National Sports Fund.

He responded with a counter-accusation that two leading bankers had "put out an order" on him. The general said he was a threat to the new team in the Kremlin because of "the compromising material which is in my head ... I have really seen a lot and I know a lot. If I am arrested or something happens to my family, I will consider it an act of political revenge."

The general's fightback promises an autumn of political scandal. His main target is Anatoli Chubais, Mr Yeltsin's chief of staff.



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Stress can affect any of us, at any stage of our lives, but the symptoms are often ignored. It can contribute to a variety of conditions, including insomnia, depression, heart disease and cancer. *The Which? Guide to Managing Stress* looks at the causes and consequences of stress, and offers advice to all those for whom stress has become a problem.

It features a quiz to show how your personality determines reactions to stress, and how to assess stress levels - an extensive anti-stress directory, including conventional and alternative therapies from acupuncture to yoga - details of support and advisory organisations.

This book from Which? also explains how crises such as divorce, redundancy and bereavement can increase

stress levels, and looks at anxiety, depression, phobias and eating disorders. Physical illness and stress, including ulcers, irritable bowel syndrome, migraines, back pain, asthma and eczema.

Dealing with bullying and work-related stress. *The Which? Guide to Managing Stress* is required reading for anyone who suffers from stress and wants to learn to bolster their stress defences. It costs just £9.99. To order, send your name and address, the book title and your payment (cheque made payable to Which? Ltd or credit card number with expiry date) to: Which?, PO Box 89, Dept SP137, Hertford, SG14 1TB. Orders are normally despatched within 14 days of receipt. Full refund if not satisfied.



French Government calls on its sharp-shooting 'Cowboy' to round up Corsican separatists

## Maigret packs a Magnum

THE French Government has sent an unequivocal message to separatist guerrillas on the Mediterranean island of Corsica in the bulky and imposing shape of Jean-Louis Bruguière, the country's top and toughest anti-terrorism judge.

Appointing Judge Bruguière to investigate the bombing last weekend of the Mayor's office in Bordeaux by Corsican nationalists is an act of calculated symbolism by the French authorities, for the judge, variously nicknamed "Le Shérif", "Le Cowboy" and "Double-barrelled Bru-Bru", has built up a formidable reputation as France's most efficient and ruthless terrorist-hunter.

Corsican extremists immediately responded to Judge Bruguière's appointment by vowing to kill anyone taking part in the police clampdown

PARIS FILE  
by BEN MACINTYRE



promised by the French Government. But the judge, 53, is not an easy man to intimidate, having spent the past two decades tracking down French gangsters, Japanese mafia members, Middle Eastern terrorists and home-grown extremists.

Illich Ramírez Sánchez, alias "Carlos the Jackal", the jailed guerrilla suspected of a string of terrorist attacks in the 1970s and 1980s, is only the most notorious of those with good reason to respect Judge Bruguière's tenacity. When the two old adversaries

In 1980 he was awarded his

first underworld "assassination contract" after dismantling a prostitution ring; a year later the extreme-left Action Directe group put the judge on its hit-list and in 1987 he returned home to his Paris flat to find that the police had just defused a grenade booby-trap attached to his front door.

After that he began carrying a .357 Magnum. "I'm quite a sharpshooter," he likes to tell journalists. But behind the posturing is a patient, methodical sleuth.

In 1992, during his investigation into the 1989 bombing of a French airliner in which 170 people were killed, Judge Bruguière issued arrest warrants for four Libyans, including Abdallah Senoussi, a brother-in-law of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, and then arrived in Tripoli aboard a French warship.

He was turned away but earlier this year he was back in Libya again, this time with an armed escort of a dozen policemen and official permission to pursue his investigations. Such high-profile actions and his obstinate ways have not always endeared him to the French authorities, and some of his colleagues have accused the judge of megalomania.

Pamela Churchill Harriman, the American Ambassador to France, has once again become a focus of Paris gossip by refusing to say whether or when she will quit her post.

Last summer Mrs Harriman implied she would be departing at the end of this presidential term, a suggestion she has been playing down ever since. The Ambassador was reported to be intensely miffed when guests for an embassy party earlier this month called

ahead to ask if they should bring farewell bouquets.

Franco-American relations may be under strain, but Paris remains obsessed with Mrs Harriman's exciting past, her marriages to Randolph Churchill, Leland Hayward and Averell Harriman, and her string of former lovers. In a recent book Isabelle Juppe, the wife of the Prime Minister, described her as "the queen of Paris high society".

## Envoy upset by parting gestures

FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN ROME

THE Pope is making a "remarkable recovery" three days after his appendix operation, his doctors said yesterday. His intestinal functions were normal, and there was no sign of fever or abdominal pain of the kind that has dogged him since last Christmas, they said.

There is still concern that the Pope's trembling left hand may be a sign that he is suffering from a form of

Parkinson's disease. But despite the public advice of Professor Francesco Crucitti, who carried out the surgery, to rest more, the pontiff shows no sign of slowing down.

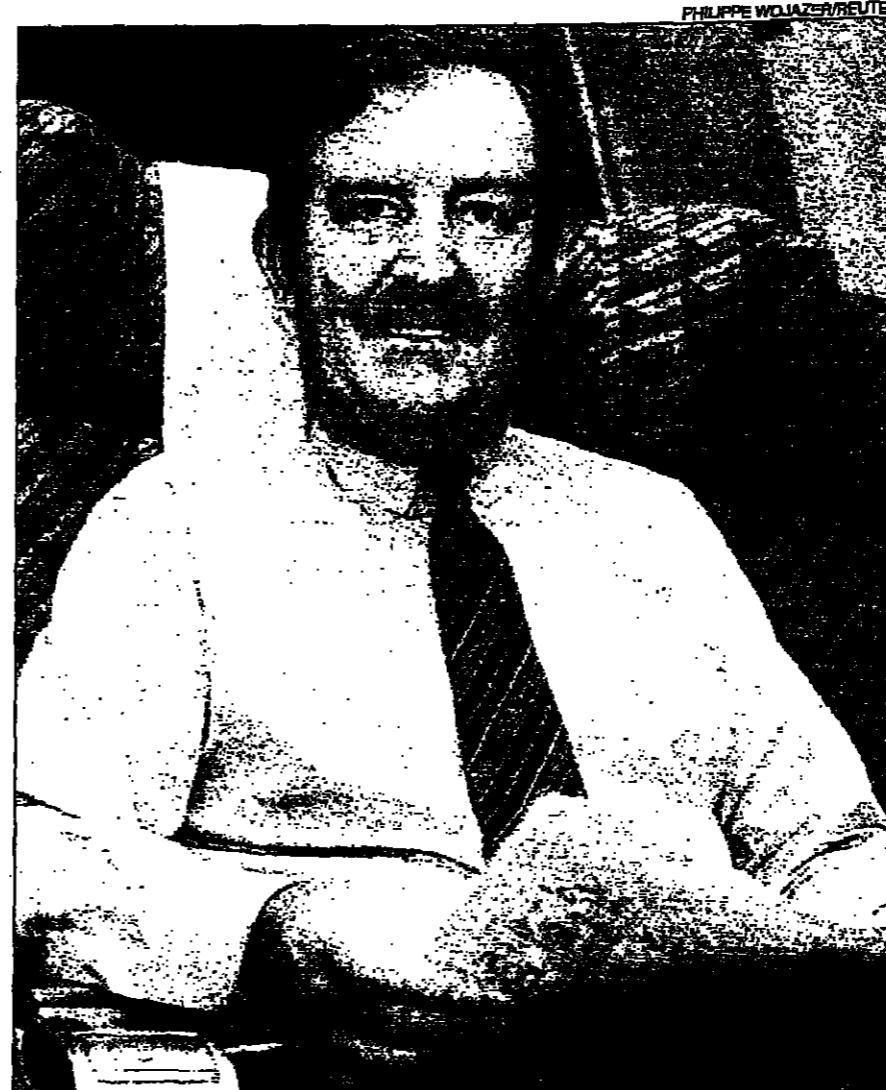
"The Holy Father thanks those cardinals and surgeons who tell him to rest," said Cardinal Paul Poupard, the Vatican's French "Minister of Culture", who accompanied the Pope on his visit to France last month. "Then he sends them away with an amiable smile and does what he has to do." Cardinal Castillo Lara, a

The Pope is drawing up

plans for at least five foreign trips next year, including Beirut, Prague, Paris, Rio de Janeiro and his native Poland.



The Pope arriving at hospital last Sunday



Jean-Louis Bruguière, France's top anti-terrorism judge, has received death threats

## Ex-Mayor's bid to steal the show

FOLLOWING in the dubious footsteps of Bernard Tapie, the disgraced politician turned film star, another convicted former government minister has decided to take up a thespian career.

Michel Noir, the former Mayor of Lyons sentenced twice this year for corruption, will appear in a production of Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*, opening on Wednesday in the southern city of Avignon.

The handsome and rakish M Noir was once a rising star in the Gaullist firmament. Trade Minister when Jacques Chirac was Prime Minister between 1986 and 1988, and widely tipped as a future presidential candidate.

His political hopes evaporated, however, when he was convicted of using city funds to finance political campaigns and for personal expenses. The former Mayor received an 18-month suspended prison sentence and was banned from elected office for five years.

In a magazine interview, M Noir quoted one of his own haiku poems to celebrate his dramatic debut: *From a red radish, the kitchen knife fashions a star*.

But critics, enraged that political disgrace seems to be a passport to fame and fortune, might rather cite a line from *Uncle Vanya*: "The land grows poorer and uglier every day."

## Pope schedules foreign trips

FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN ROME

COPENHAGEN: Ministers of the four Nordic nations yesterday agreed to co-ordinate police and government action against the biker gang warfare that has shattered the peace in one of Europe's most law-abiding regions (Christopher Follitt writes).

## Nordic plan to counter biker war

The meeting was held after last weekend's missile attack on the headquarters of the Hell's Angels gang here, in which two people were killed. Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland also agreed to establish a register of stolen weapons, to co-operate more closely with Europol, to tighten criminal laws and to monitor and study the economy of gangs thought to be involved in racketeering.

## Neo-Fascist Austrian woos Britain's Euro-sceptic wing

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE far-right Austrian politician Jörg Haider, who is urging a delay in European Monetary Union, is poised to make a strong showing in the country's first ever European elections this weekend.

Austrian membership of monetary union, Herr Haider said, would further squeeze an already depressed tourist industry. There was only one way forward, he said: to delay monetary union — "I would be happy if we didn't meet the criteria" — and to delay eastward enlargement of the Union.

As soon as members of his Freedom Party were in the European Parliament, he said, he would attempt to reach a common platform with British

Conservatives and members of Italy's Northern League to present an anti-Maastricht bloc in Strasbourg. Talks with the British were already under way on this subject.

Herr Haider makes the liberal Vienna establishment very nervous. Franz Vranitzky, the Chancellor, urged voters to reject firmly the spectre of fascism. Among Herr Haider's many utterances was explicit praise for Hitler's employment policies. His disparaging comments about foreign workers and Bosnian refugees have helped to stir up a generally hostile, angry climate. "This is our city, it is not Istanbul," he told crowded rallies this week.

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# Heirs of the Tory sages fight it out

Powell, Macleod and Heath still divide the party, says Robert Shepherd

**O**n February 13, 1957, Enoch Powell, then a rising star at the Treasury, set down his thoughts on the Tory party's future in a letter to Iain Macleod, the Cabinet minister who had just taken charge of reviewing Tory policy in the wake of Eden's resignation as Prime Minister over Suez. In a juxtaposition that was to become his trademark, Powell appealed to logic while assuring a romantic nationalism. "The courage to act rationally will flow from the courage to see things as they are," he declared. "The Tory party has to find patriotism again, and to find it, as of old, in this 'England'."

Almost 40 years later, with the Tories again in deep trouble, echoes of Powell's post-Suez prescription have been heard from a trio of Euro-sceptic former ministers on the conference fringe at Bournemouth: Lord Tebbit, Norman Lamont and John Redwood. The tide of opinion among constituency parties and parliamentary candidates is running strongly in their favour, despite yesterday's impressive display of unity in the conference hall. But the battle for the soul of the party reflects a longer struggle between competing Tory traditions. These traditions matter, for they reflect politicians' core beliefs and explain why they may suddenly erupt, as Kenneth Clarke did recently over the single currency.

The main post-war Conservative traditions are personified by Enoch Powell, Iain Macleod and Sir Edward Heath. All three first entered the Commons in 1950 and were among the nine founding members of the "One Nation" group. They agreed on the need for a distinctively Tory social policy, but a faultline on Europe soon appeared.

In June 1950, Heath devoted his maiden speech to supporting Churchill's call for Britain to join in planning the European Coal and Steel Community — forerunner of the EEC, the EC and today's EU. Powell, however, was among six imperialists who defied the Tory whip. "It was my first act as a Eurosceptic," Powell later claimed. In fact, having renounced the Empire in 1946, he was to support Britain's abortive attempts to join the EEC in the 1960s before his return to the Euro-sceptic fold in 1969.

Later in the 1950s, a major fault-line also emerged in Tory economic policy. At the Treasury, Powell was a key player in the Tories' first post-war monetarist experiment during 1957-58. Macleod led the counter-attack in Macmillan's Cabinet that culminated in the resignation of the entire Treasury team, while Heath, as Chief Whip, had to manage the ensuing crisis. Defeat for the monetarists confirmed the centrist direction of Tory economic and social policy, which took credit for Macmillan's 1959 landslide victory.

Of the three, Heath eventually rose to become Prime Minister and took Britain into the EEC in 1973. Today his technocratic politics and belief in European federalism are virtually eclipsed in his own party — save the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine. But despite Macleod's untimely death in 1970 and Powell's departure from the Tory benches in 1974, the most interesting debate among today's Tories is between their heirs.

Both Powell and Macleod wanted the Tories to become a radical and truly national party that appealed across the old class divisions. Hence their anger in 1963 when the aristocratic Douglas-Home became Prime Minister instead of the great post-war Tory moderniser, "Rab" Butler. Powell advocated economic liberalism and, from the mid-1960s, an increas-

singly nationalistic stance on immigration, defence and Europe. His coming out against the EEC was fateful, since his nationalist heirs have steadily superseded the old Commonwealth lobby to become the dominant force among Eurosceptics.

By contrast, Macleod proposed economic intervention and social liberalism, while envisaging the creation of a dynamic economy through tax reform (a goal echoed in Chris Patten's espousal of the economics of the Asian "tigers"). As an internationalist, Macleod believed passionately in Britain's role in the Commonwealth, the Atlantic Alliance and Europe. John Major and Malcolm Rifkind are closest to this tradition.

A further distinction between Powell and Macleod reflects the 18th-century division between court and country, which cut across Whig and Tory loyalties. Court politicians set their sights on winning and holding office. Their country counterparts were suspicious of the corrupting influence of power and were natural backbenchers. Whereas Macleod saw politics as being about getting things done in office, Powell is essentially a country Tory.

Powellism, marrying market economics with nationalism, was a precursor of Thatcherism — although Powell's anti-Americanism and his denunciation of nuclear deterrence were anathema to the Iron Lady. But Margaret Thatcher, at any rate until she was deposed in 1990, was always more court than country. That is why her reign lasted so long. Indeed, it was Macleod who as Shadow Chancellor in 1985 gave Mrs Thatcher her first big

break by insisting that she should become his deputy, and he was soon suggesting that the Tories might one day choose a woman leader. Powell first realised that Mrs Thatcher's instincts would be overruled by her ambition for office in 1978 when she voiced the fear of being "swamped" by immigration but then avoided repeating this taboo word.

**T**oday, the issue of Europe has a new urgency because of the Franco-German drive towards a single currency. The stakes are high. Europe could split the Conservative Party as catastrophically as Corn Law reform in 1846 or tariff reform in the early 1900s.

Macleod's approach offers a way forward. He was what might be termed a pro-European sceptic — tempering support for British membership with shrewd political judgment. Recognising that most Britons were reluctant Europeans, he saw the need to keep party and people in step. Before the 1970 election, he privately favoured a referendum on British entry to the EEC. Heath spurned the idea, and went in anyway. Labour later took it up and, in 1974, with Powell's support, defeated Heath.

Today's Cabinet compromise on the single currency — keeping options open but promising a referendum before joining the euro — reflects Macleod's pragmatic approach. But if, as seems increasingly likely, the Tories lose the next election, there will be intense pressure to follow Powell's instincts.

The Tories, however, must avoid becoming the new country party, banging the patriotic drum and offering simple nostrums but locked in permanent opposition. They will do well to remember that without office they can do nothing.

**T**he author has written biographies of Iain Macleod and, most recently, Enoch Powell (both published by Hutchinson).

# Opera then

DAVID HOCKNEY and the opera world are to part. So disaffected is the artist with the way his time is "wasted" by opera companies that he is to abandon his much-praised career as a production designer. Top of his blacklist is the Royal Opera House.

"I've drawn a line under opera

designing," he says in the November issue of *BBC Music* magazine. "I always end up saying the same thing to the people that run opera: you're satisfied with the third-rate because you compare it with the sixth-rate; you're pleased because you can point to something worse and see that it isn't quite

as bad as that. What about thinking of the first-rate for a change? It's often only a little extra, but they're not hungry for quality, even when it comes to them on a plate."

Hockney says he will now restrict himself to painting — his new subject is the flora of Los Angeles — but Nicholas Payne, director of the Royal Opera, has hopes of luring him back. "There is something magical about his work, but he probably has a point. The trouble for any solitary artist when you come into the murky world of opera is that it is a collaborative process and you have to compromise. I can see how that must be a terrible torment."

**M**ore trouble looms for the Royal Family. Yesterday Kitty Kelley finally delivered the typescript of her book about them. Kelley started out just writing about the Duke of Edinburgh. Then the book's scope grew and grew, and its deadline was put back farther and farther. For the likely content, the royal minders might care to read Kelley's knifing of Frank Sinatra, which is said to have turned the singer's eyes from blue to a blazing

red, or her vicious reputation-wrecker on Nancy Reagan.

# We have been slow to celebrate our greatest contemporary artist, says Rachel Campbell-Johnston

# Francis Bacon and the meaning of life

**T**owards the end of the 1950s, rumours began to leak to the outside world that a nest of bibulous painters had been uncovered in Soho. A squadron of critics dashed to the scene, cordoning off Wheeler's and the Colony Room, corralling Michael Andrews and Frank Auerbach, Lucian Freud and Francis Bacon into a so-called School of London.

But although the label served its purpose in some ways, focusing attention away from the abstract art of America and towards the figurative painting that was going on in England, it was a misleading one. The artistic explosion had already occurred, launching each of the painters on his separate trajectory. And of these, none was to prove more powerful or individualistic than Francis Bacon.

Bacon's talent was marked by an impious solitude. Lucian Freud once described him as the wildest and wisest person he had ever known. Bacon himself said in an interview that he had flouted conventional standards, working on his character to make himself as unnatural as he possibly could.

When an artist pours his talent as much into his art as his biography becomes an important means of understanding the work. Bacon's painting — more than that

of any other artist of his generation — is illuminated by accounts of his life. Of the handful of biographies that have been published since his death in 1992, Michael Peppiatt's *Anatomy of an Enigma*, which has been serialised in *The Times* this week, is the most serious and comprehensive.

"I am greedy for life... for what chance can give me far beyond anything I can calculate logically," he once said. As a young man staying in Monte Carlo he ended up one night winning £1,600 at the casino. This was then an enormous amount. But Bacon did not believe in making provision for the future. He used the money instead to take a villa which he stocked with wine and food and friends. Ten days later he had scarcely enough money to buy a ticket back to London.

His attitude to painting was similarly volatile. "All art," he said, "has now become completely a

game by which man distracts himself." He shrugged off critics who sought to find in his work allegories of 20th-century life. Rather, he seemed in essence so banal, he thought that he might as well make some sort of grandeur or it.

"I am greedy for life... for what chance can give me far beyond anything I can calculate logically," he once said. As a young man staying in Monte Carlo he ended up one night winning £1,600 at the casino. This was then an enormous amount. But Bacon did not believe in making provision for the future. He used the money instead to take a villa which he stocked with wine and food and friends. Ten days later he had scarcely enough money to buy a ticket back to London.

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onlooker would return to life more violently and more poignantly.

An example of this was Bacon's discovery in Paris of a hand-coloured book of buccal diseases, which lies behind his fascination with the open, screaming mouth. He wanted to paint its glittering colours, he said, with all the shimmering beauty with which Monet painted landscapes. He was haunted by the images of Muybridge's photographs, and they became a source of ideas. His passion for the Old Masters of Flanders, Spain and Italy can be traced in many of his paintings. And the Greek tragedian Aeschylus was an inspiration to him — he always regretted not being able to read the *Orestes* in the original. "The reek of human blood is laughter to my heart," was one of the lines he liked to quote, and became a focus for his themes.

Ultimately it is the visceral beauty of the paintings that matters. This year Paris seized the initiative, staging the first large-scale retrospective of Bacon's work since his death. It has attracted some 5,000 visitors a day. Although Peppiatt's biography is a welcome addition to the body of work on our greatest contemporary artist, we have been too tardy in celebrating modern British genius.

# Sue us, Your Majesties

The time has come for the Royal Family to defend itself in court

**T**he only truths in a newspaper are births, marriages and deaths. All else is distortion. There is no other way to get the facts to fit the page. And there is no distortion like a tabloid story about the Royal Family. So competitive has this market become that mendacity is precision engineering.

Last Thursday, Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, wrote to *The Times* to criticise newspapers after *The Sun's* "Di-and-Hewitt" hoax and the *Express's* "Prince Wills in love" story. He deplored them though not by name. Lord Wakeham deplores an intrusive verb. When faced with tabloid excess, his predecessor, Lord McGregor of Durrus, would summon the television cameras and expose them with rage.

Lord Wakeham is hangdog. He deplores like a Wild West sheriff who knows he has no gun and no lock on the jailhouse door. He deplores with a dying fall.

The first subject of his lamentation purported to be secret video footage of the Princess of Wales and her lover prancing in their underclothes at the window of Highgrove some years ago. The video was not sourced. Publication was justified by *The Sun's* on the hilarious, and untypically long-winded, grounds that "any embarrassment our action may cause to Diana is tiny compared to the satisfaction she will feel in knowing that she was right all along about the dirty tricks". The *Express* story was almost as implausible. Fourteen-year-old Prince William was said to be infatuated with a 17-year-old marquess's daughter in Scotland and to be "bombarding her" with love letters. Both stories were later admitted to be wholly false.

Most readers will be baffled at how grown men (and women) can concoct, process and print such rubbish. Let us give the culprits a hearing. Newspapers are in the business of oddity, of tales of the strange, the shocking, the scandalous in high places. Like Mrs Mopp over the garden fence, we say "No... I can't believe it... You don't really mean THAT..." and wait for it to be true. Only those who know the inside of an editorial office can imagine the pressure on executives to believe a good story, cut corners and get it into print.

This week Lord Wakeham has been asked by a new Secretary of State, Virginia Bottomley, to prepare "new measures". He pleaded this week for a "new way forward in strengthening self-regulation". He promised that the press "will rise to this new challenge", contriving not to choke on his words. Nothing will be done. There are too many elections about.

Britain's newspapers are an admirable example of what ministers have been boasting about in Bournemouth this week. They are a slimmered-down, productive and competitive industry. They need no subsidy and beg no protection. They are there to kill or be killed. Lord Wakeham is the industry's sole regulator, and as far as privacy is concerned, his press code of practice is his sole weapon.

In my view, the code has been reasonably successful. Its rules for legitimate, whistle-blowing — against crime, antisocial behaviour and hypocrisy — have given both public and private individuals a measure of protection. The press is kinder now than a decade ago to the children of politicians, to the sick and to the grief-stricken. The change is not seismic, but has been marked. By definition, the public never sees a newspaper exercising self-restraint.

But one institution has enjoyed no protection from the code: the Royal Family. The reason is that



Diana and the press pack: litigation must be better than continuing lies and humiliation

the royal saga is a market phenomenon that at present defies regulation. It is the industry's seam of gold, a product guaranteed to sell worldwide and for astonishing sums of money. Few British readers will realise the voracity of the global appetite for Royal Family stories. Magazines in a dozen languages are devoted to it. A Royal Family headline will boost street sales from Los Angeles to Lusaka, from Nice to Nagasaki. Two paragraphs will syndicate for a thousand pounds. A good picture will go for tens of thousands.

Lord Wakeham's tut-tutting will have no impact on this business. Nor would any law on privacy. Royal stories are to the tabloids what cocaine is to the Colombian economy. They are a commercial necessity. My colleague Brian MacArthur noted this week that *The Sun* increased its Saturday sale last month by 100,000 merely by printing a cobbled "spoiler" about the Duchess of York. This was to preempt some rubbish in the *Daily Mirror* about her mystic consultant, rubbish which itself was sold round the world. Even if British newspapers withdrew every reporter and photographer from the ratpack, a dozen foreign freelances would take their place.

Can nothing be done? Even the most prominent public figures are entitled to some privacy. No matter if they court fame, invite publicity, parade their most intimate secrets before the world, they are still entitled to lives as free from psychological as from physical assault. Respect for personal dignity — as important as respect as for personal privacy — should not be proportionate to fame or even exhibitionism. If parents seem unconcerned about the happiness of their children, that does not exonerate the press from such concern.

Lord Wakeham is the custodian of these entitlements. In his *Times* letter he protests that he is hogtied in deplored intrusion because the Royal Family does not like to complain. Without a complaint his commission's "process of investigation" cannot begin. Yet later in his letter he warns the press that the commission "has powers to raise its own complaints when it needs to — and will not hesitate to use them". Both statements cannot be true.

The first looks like an excuse and the second an empty threat.

The commission is simply too feeble to help the Royal Family. But the family does have one redress.

It has long believed that suing newspapers is beneath its dignity. It does not need the money, and the humiliation of appearance in court would aggravate the harm of a libel. This is usually a sound principle. I say, never sue. Threaten, cajole, plead, whinge, but never sue. Threaten, cajole, plead, whinge, but never sue. It is never the pain even if it is sometimes worth the cost. A nasty

story in the press is an accident, an act of God. It is best "got over" as soon as possible.

But in the case of the Royal Family I am not sure this is wise. As Elton John and a number of politicians discovered in the 1980s, juries will treat libel as a proxy for privacy and award big damages, in effect deterring the press from continuing harassment. Elton John's £1 million in 1988 gave him remarkable media protection. Those who win big libel cases erect round themselves a magnetic field, repelling intrusion.

At present the press believes it can print what it likes about the Royal Family because the rewards are huge and there is little risk in not checking facts. The royals do not retaliate. Experience suggests that the agony and indignity which this licence inflicts must outweigh the dignity of avoiding litigation. When lies are written about them, the Royal Family should hit back with a vengeance. There should be blood on the Law Courts floor. A few stunnings settlements and Fleet Street would go more carefully across this enticing terrain.

Besides, the time has surely come for the Royal Family to share in the profits of an industry to which they supply the raw material. Politicians used to boast that Lord Beaverbrook educated their children. Perhaps we have a new way to supplement the Civil List.



Tamsin: bloomin'

last year to the actor Simon Dutton, she has virtually abandoned her own spluttering acting career in favour of her successful restaurant, The Engineer, in north London.

Neither her agent nor staff at the restaurant, however, have seen her for some time now. She has disappeared off into the country with her husband, doubtless to contemplate their forthcoming production.

P.H.S

## Ripping yarn

EVERYONE's favourite nobody, Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, was nearly 20 minutes late at the Cambridge Union on Thursday night to propose the motion: "This House Would Dress for Success." She had been dressing. It had taken her an inordinately long time, she explained, to squeeze into her G-string and breathtakingly tight gold ballgown which she called her "gold condam dress".

After some heckling, she skipped to the highlight of her speech, a story of how she had split her dress at

a party given by Imran and Jemima Khan for the premiere of the film *Emma*. "I had to rush off to the ladies and have myself sewn back in," said Miss P-T. "I wish I had a lady-in-waiting full-time."

## Buckle down

WHEN I bumped into Lord Strathclyde, the Tory Chief Whip in the Lords, at the Bournemouth conference, his shoes caught my eye. To

the untrained, the large gold buckle



les spoke of Gucci loafers, an odd European touch in so British a figure. "New & Lingwood," he told me almost apologetically. "I bought them because I hate polishing my shoes, so I thought that if I wore ones with a shiny gold buckle people would be distracted from seeing how filthy the shoes were. Sadly, once my eye has been drawn to the buckle, they tend to inspect the rest of my shoes when before they wouldn't have even looked down there at all."

● **Consolation from Lord Tebbit** for those on the Tory Right torn between party loyalty and a longing for election defeat and a sceptical realignment. "It's happened before," he says. "I woke up on the night of the 1972 election after this terrible nightmare. Wilson had won. Finally I got back to sleep then a couple of hours later I woke up sweating again. I'd had another nightmare



## A TALE OF TWO LEADERS

Personalities versus policies in the months ahead

Over the past fortnight, two men have found their voice. In Blackpool, Tony Blair delivered a grandiloquent oration with confidence and verve. In Bournemouth, John Major gave a more modest, down-to-earth and endearing speech with self-possession and ease. The contrast could hardly have been greater: as the parties' policies are seen to converge, the choice between the two men and their voices may become the biggest election issue.

Mr Major's speech was a clear sign that the Tories will fight Labour on the centre ground. A pledge to increase spending on the NHS in real terms for each of the next five years and new plans to help the long-term unemployed back to work are both policies that might have sprung from new Labour. Indeed, the spending promise dethroned Gordon Brown from the Left.

The convergence between the two parties is summed up by the Conservatives' conference slogan this year: Opportunity for All. The words could as comfortably have appeared above the stage in Blackpool as in Bournemouth. "Opportunity" is traditionally associated with the Tories, but it is a word that Labour used again and again last week. "For All" are normally Labour's words, but the Conservatives are trying to appropriate them: they appeared this week in Mr Major's own handwriting in Blackpool, almost every speaker talked of Labour standing up for "the many", while the Tories governed for "the few". This charge Mr Major personally rejected yesterday.

The floating voters of the Centre need Tory attention. But the strategy has its risks too. Conservatives have been infuriated by the way in which Mr Blair has tacked his party to the right. They fear that their disillusioned voters will now see Labour as moderate and safe enough to support. If the Tories are tacking to the left towards Labour, they will reinforce the message that, in central economic policy areas, there is little to choose between the two parties.

There is certainly a much bigger dif-

ference between the two men. It was this point that Mr Major was at pains to emphasise yesterday. He painted himself as the man of the people, someone who had known poverty, who had attended grammar school, who had worked his way up from "two rooms in Brixton" to 10 Downing Street. In one of the odder political inversions of recent years, it is a Labour leader who is now portrayed as a public-school toff, a member of the chattering classes, a man who has known nothing but a comfortable life. If snobbery is no longer allowed in John Major's classless society, inverted snobbery has been given a free rein.

Neither man chose his background: both men, however, have developed their own personalities. Mr Blair has made himself a strong leader; he has dragged his party, sometimes kicking and screaming, exactly where he has wanted it to go. He is audacious, occasionally reckless, and in Blackpool he came close to taking the purple mantle of a prophet. Mr Major is cautious and understated, a leader who talks and weaves to keep his party intact. His activists warmly applauded his modesty and humanity yesterday. His promise to be there with them, "north, south, east and west", during the election campaign summed up a style that inspires troops by doing, not saying, by mucking in with them, not leading from the hill above.

Voters will decide which they prefer. They will have plenty of opportunity for future examination. Politics seems set to become more personal in the months ahead. This is a fair game. The experience of the past two Tory leaders has illustrated how profoundly the character of Prime Ministers stamps itself upon the success or otherwise of their administrations.

It can be a rough game too. The Tory advertising will have to be both loud and rough. But Mr Major, whose insults flew pretty low yesterday, might remember that decency is one of the traits that the British people like in him.

## MALAN GOES FREE

A good verdict for the reputation of South Africa

The acquittal of Magnus Malan, South Africa's former Defence Minister, and those accused with him of masterminding the massacre of 13 black women and children in 1987, is a verdict that will enhance South Africa's reputation overseas for maturity and stability. That a judge should be free to deliver a verdict so politically unpopular, and that President Mandela should immediately endorse the decision of the court as final, is a tribute to the courage and independence of the judiciary. It is also clear evidence that South Africa has resisted popular pressure for lynch-mob retribution against those associated with the apartheid years.

Nevertheless, within South Africa the verdict is intensely controversial, and may inflame passions in a way deeply damaging to stability and race relations. The Inkatha Freedom Party and the National Party are relieved: many Afrikaners saw the indictment of General Malan as an ominous sign that thousands associated with the former regime were now liable to hounding through the courts.

The reaction from the African National Congress, however, is likely to be explosive. There is little concept among radical politicians of *sub judice* rules, and the indictments of General Malan and top military officers were taken as guilty verdicts, prompting ANC satisfaction and extensive comment. This judicial reversal has therefore come as a shock, and is bound to lead to accusations again Mr Justice Jan Hugo personally, and against what is seen as apartheid-era domination of the legal system.

## LEGENDS OF SPORT

What Sir Colin can do for Prime Minister and country

Winning is fun. So is talking about winning. As so often, the Prime Minister was at his warmest and most enthusiastic when talking yesterday about sport. Mr Major has both a plan and a man. Just as Richard Branson was launched against litter and Trevor McDonald is still jousting against bad English, so Sir Colin Cowdrey is to be cast into Britain's sport-free zones. His job is to bring heroes and heroines to even the most unheroic inner-city playgrounds.

We wish him well. But as previous figureheads might tell Sir Colin, it is when the political spotlight has been turned off that the real troubles begin. While Mr Branson took the job at the height of his tycoon popularity and Mr McDonald is on TV most nights, Sir Colin is genuinely, as Mr Major put it, "legendary". The man whose captaincy of Oxford was in 1984 will need to recruit some rather younger role models if his political innings is to last.

So short is life at the top in most sports these days that our children think of Gary Lineker, if they think of him at all, as a football commentator and salesman for potato crisps. Some sporting heroes, such as Michael Atherton and Daley Thompson, may be lasting role models of whom Mr Major would more or less approve. But many footballers in the Premiership division are merely examples of how to become a millionaire by leaving school at 16.

Eric Camona became a children's coach because of a court order. Other sporting heroes, such as Paul Gascoigne, Dominic

There is a widespread feeling in the ANC — and not only in that party — that wicked things were done directly by members of the apartheid Government. The tight control of affairs at the top must have meant that senior figures had full knowledge of, or gave tacit approval for, killings and widespread human rights abuses. Between 1990 and 1994 the National Party had plenty of time to destroy all evidence linking its politicians with such deeds. It is therefore exceptionally difficult now to mount a credible case in a court of law as the crucial evidence is missing. This will only increase the ANC's frustration that murderers and torturers seem to be escaping retribution.

One effect of the verdict may be to put more backbone into the members of the Truth Commission, which has been investigating the apartheid years in a somewhat desultory and amateur manner. The Commission has lacked bite, and has often floundered during hearings of former politicians, some of whom have freely admitted errors and moral culpability. It may now feel that with the judicial avenue for retribution unpromising, it has a more urgent responsibility to name names and secure evidence of wrongdoing.

General Malan has, sensibly, thanked President Mandela for the chance to prove his innocence in court. He should also thank him for his clear attempt to uphold the courts' shaky authority. For if the ANC reaction leads to widespread unrest, many a judge will now prefer to take an easier line and bow to the political mood.

## Bournemouth Torries

From Mr Julian Washington

Sir, I offer some free advice to the leaders of any divided political party which is seeking election victory: do not spend the greater part of your conference calling the party to unity in full view of the media. This only serves to remind the electorate just how divided you really are and convinces us that unity will give way to mutiny at the polling stations close.

Yours faithfully,  
JULIAN WASHINGTON,  
14 Equity Square,  
Shadwell Street, E2.  
October 11.

From Ms Margaret Livens

Sir, Your picture today of Kenneth Clarke and his wife does more for Kenneth Clarke, for family values, for women and indeed for the Tory party requires. Sporting genius flowers in the worst and best of soils. Bradman trained his eagle eye by hitting a golf ball with a stump over and over again. Diego Maradona learnt his football in the slum streets of Buenos Aires with a ball made from rags. Steve Ballesteros played every stroke in the golf-bag with a three-iron behind the caddie shed. Distinguished ambassadors can indeed inspire us all — but they especially inspire the politicians who first appointed them.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Church dilemma on homosexuals

From the Rector of Hawkhurst

Sir, So the Church of England is demanding an apology from the BBC (report, October 11) over a *Thought for the Day* piece in which Ann Atkins accused the Church of giving "an uncertain sound" over homosexuality.

Mrs Atkins is quite correct if she is referring to the House of Bishops, whose members have made unofficial statements open to contradictory interpretations. The involvement of a bishop in next month's celebration by the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement in Southwark Cathedral further confuses the situation.

According to your report the Church of England tolerates lay homosexuals in committed relationships; but its official position is based upon a private member's motion which I put to the General Synod in 1987, as amended by the House of Bishops. It stated that homosexual practice "is to be met by a call to repentance" and was passed by a 98 per cent majority.

No other report or statement on the issue has been debated, let alone approved, by the General Synod since.

Yours sincerely,  
TONY HICKTON,  
The Rector,  
Hawkhurst, Kent.

October 11.

From the Reverend David Dale

Sir, Mrs Atkins has correctly discerned the causal relationship between laissez-faire doctrine and ethics and the appalling numerical decline of the Church of England. This diocese lost the equivalent of a congregation of 86 every two months last year.

The tragedy is that this relationship is not more widely discerned, and worse, that no effective steps to stem the decline are being taken.

I have recently attended two meetings called to discuss the decline in vocations and income. Not once was any attempt made to find out the cause and the only action decided on was to manage the decline more effectively.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID DALE,  
All Saints' Vicarage,  
Ryde, Isle of Wight.

From the Reverend Vaughan Roberts

Sir, The only sadness in the recent controversy over a *Thought for the Day* broadcast condemning homosexual practice was the reported criticism of it by the Church of England.

The speaker was simply arguing a position which is taught by the Bible and has been held by the vast majority of Christians throughout history, and she did so with compassion and sensitivity.

It is hard enough to stand for Christ and his standards in an increasingly secular world without being undermined by church officials and bishops, such as those who support the forthcoming gay celebration in Southwark Cathedral.

Yours faithfully,  
V. E. ROBERTS.  
St Ebbe's Flat,  
1 Roger Bacon Lane, Oxford.  
October 11.

From the Reverend Eric Sheogog

Sir, May I clarify my concern about Radio 4's *Thought for the Day*. The issue is not about what Mrs Atkins said about homosexuality. She is entitled to her view, which is shared by others in the Church.

Our major concern was the use of a platform to attack the Church of England, which did not have an immediate right of reply. Our concern, therefore, is with the BBC as the broadcaster, not with Mrs Atkins or her views on homosexuality.

Yours faithfully,  
ERIC SHEOGOG  
(Director of Communications).  
The General Synod of the  
Church of England,  
Church House,  
Great Smith Street, SW1.  
October 11.

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, Your report (Weekend Shopping, October 4) that Asda are giving away small apples in protest at a Brussels rule preventing their sale is very funny but is also very serious, as it is a good symptom of the fundamental fault that makes the EU so dangerous.

A rule that could not come

into being if our laws were generated by the democratic principle so many

candidates of all backgrounds with

top A-level grades, and we are deter-

mined to continue to apply individual-

ised selection, and to ensure that all

our candidates receive full and fair

consideration irrespective of their

private and state school sectors.

Nevertheless, your report of the

Headmasters' and Headmistresses'

Conference debate draws attention to

some misconceptions about our new

admissions system — a system based

on interview and school reports rather

than on a common entrance examination,

and designed to ensure more equi-

table assessment and a more

equitable distribution of the most tal-

ented applicants across the board.

Under the new system there will be

greater opportunity for allocation of

candidates to under-subscribed col-

leges, and we will continue to ensure,

by the closest co-operation between tu-

tors, that the very best applicants are

given the maximum opportunity at

more than one college. This will be

combined with greater involvement

within subjects, also designed to en-

sure that the brightest across the

board get places.

The interview has always been an

important and integral part of the Ox-

ford selection process; but it is now

coupled with focused written tests and

submission of written work by the

candidates, where appropriate, in or-

der to give tutors a complete picture.

What must not be forgotten is the

reason for these reforms in the first

place. We are very conscious of the dif-

ficulty of choosing amongst so many

candidates of all backgrounds with

top A-level grades, and we are deter-

mined to continue to apply individual-

ised selection, and to ensure that all

our candidates receive full and fair

consideration irrespective of their

private and state school sectors.

Yours faithfully,

T. WILSON.

Linden,

8 Claresmead, Malton Road,

Tiptree, Colchester, Essex.

October 9.

ed under such governments within

the past half century. It is disturbing

that they did not learn more from the ex-

perience.

Yours faithfully,

G. THOMAS.

17 Campden Hill Square, W8.

From Mr Terence Wilson

Sir, Whilst enjoying the fascinating

programme *Antonio Carluccio's Ital-*

*ian Feast* on BBC2 last Tuesday, I no-

iced the shops in Umbria openly dis-

played fresh food, including the but-





## NEWS

**Major pits himself against Blair**

■ John Major served notice, as he brought the Conservative Party Conference in Bournemouth to a rousing close, that he intends to turn the general election into a direct contest between himself and the Labour leader, Tony Blair.

He will present himself in towns and streets as a straightforward man of the people compared with a verbose, privileged and out-of-touch novice..... Page 1, 2, 10, 11

**Lisburn bomb soldier dies**

■ The Prime Minister openly accused Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, of backing terrorism, suggesting he was implicated in the death of Warrant Officer James Bradwell, injured in Monday's IRA attack in Lisburn..... Page 1, 2

**Women underpaid**

Women solicitors are being discriminated against by a pay scale that rewards male colleagues with higher salaries..... Page 1

**Plunderer jailed**

An accountant who systematically plundered almost £240,000 from the Church of England to fund an extravagant lifestyle began a three-year jail sentence..... Page 3

**Rapist sought**

Police hope a public outcry will help them to catch a man who raped a woman of 87 while holding her captive in her home for most of the night..... Page 3

**Cancer risk**

Women who have an abortion increase by a third their risk of getting breast cancer, researchers said..... Page 4

**Poor's champion**

Prue Leith, the millionaire caterer, has become a champion of the dispossessed..... Page 7

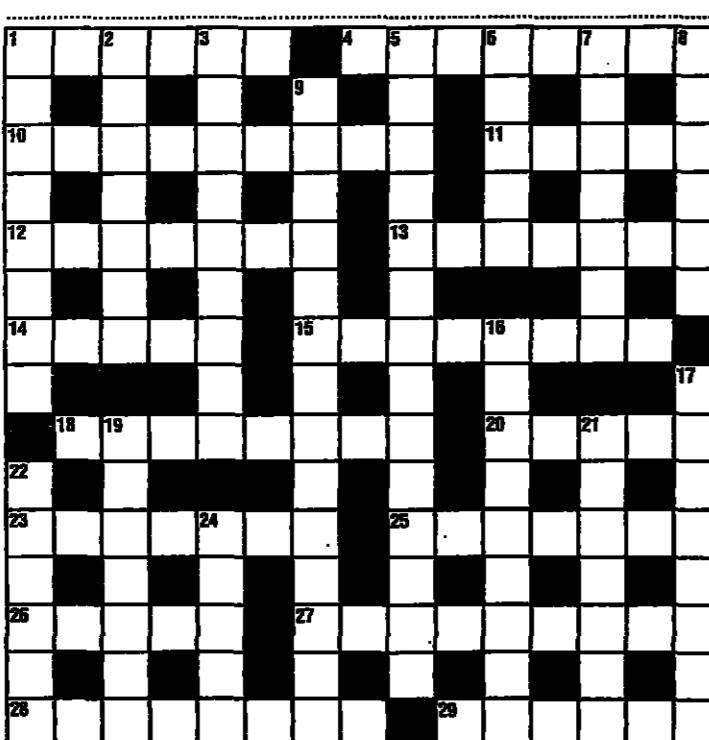
**OJ 'tried to shoot himself in head'**

■ O.J. SIMPSON put a gun to his head and pulled the trigger while being chased through Los Angeles by police, his friend and adviser Robert Kardashian, who spoke to him that night by car phone, has recalled. The gun did not go off..... Page 1

**THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,297**

*A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.*

Name/Address .....



**ACROSS**

- Child's play for shepherdess in nursery (2-4).
- A female Liberal, say, in excited state (8).
- Fighter, perhaps, rejected opening, in a way (9).
- Fail to declare weapon to police (5).
- March almost pleasant? No, quite diabolical (7).
- Disturb king, in peril after loss of rook (7).
- Dish of oriental chef bringing us his cooking (5).
- Diamonds — only the very best will do for one's sweet (3-5).
- Collaborating with governing class (2,6).
- State with sea to the east (5).
- Caesar, in bad mood, beheaded soldiers (7).
- Book classes, for example, given to children make fresh impression (7).
- Bundle ambassador into nearly secure accommodation (5).
- Fitting for shift (9).
- She needs to listen (8).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,291

**CHAMPIONSHIP CROSSWORD GRANT KUHETO TA NOTIBAD WRITHING BLOO YELLIN FALCONRY ENIDA PLIANT UNPLUG E V T I O ABERDEEN GOLFED R O I R J N I U LOURS CLOSEKNIT Y T C O H S A C R C P E T M I R COMMONWEALTH**

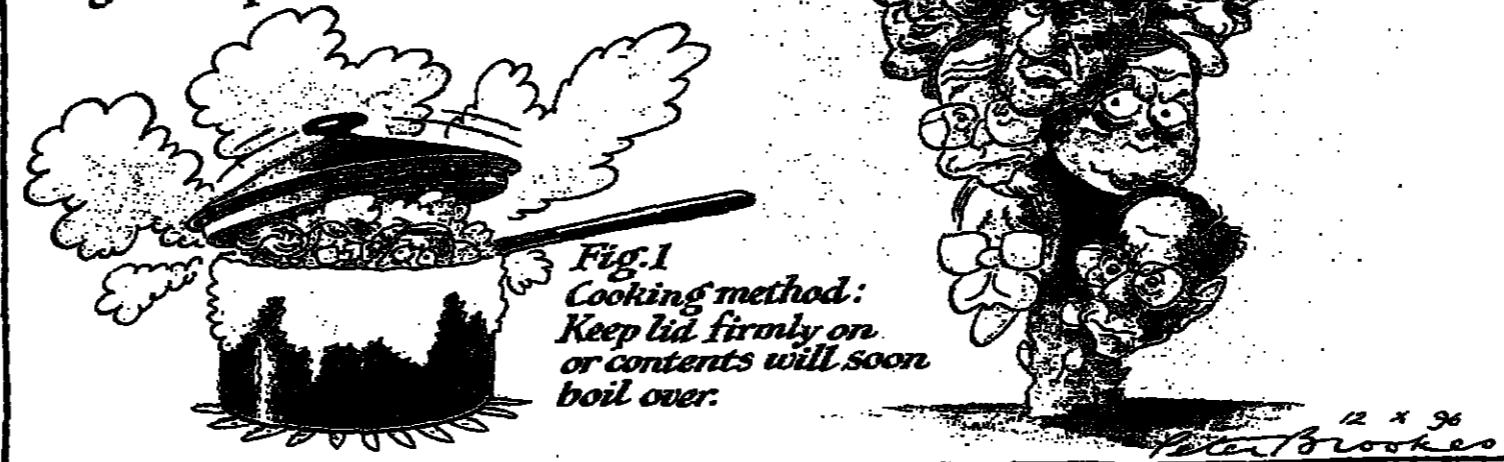
LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: T Byrne, Westmeath, Ireland; G Noble, Caterham, Surrey; W Dore, Headingley, Leeds; K Hopkins, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire; D L E Marshall, Langley, Berkshire.

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## NATURE NOTES

**Brussels Sprouts**  
*(Unitatus youmustbekiddingus)*

Held together by a fragile, single stem, this brassica is usually served in a stew, accompanied by a right old pickle. Runs to seed in May.

**BORNBURY**

Tale of two leaders: As the parties' policies are seen to converge, the choice between the leaders may become the biggest poll issue..... Page 20

**Malan cleared**

Magnus Malan, the former South African Defence Minister, was acquitted on charges of murder and conspiracy to murder..... Page 13

**Clinton at 21**

For 15 minutes this week President Clinton left the campaign trail, to buy his wife a 21st wedding anniversary gift..... Page 15

**Peace Prize**

The Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to José Ramos-Horta and Bishop Carlos Belo of Dili for helping East Timorese..... Page 14

**Clinton at 21**

For 15 minutes this week President Clinton left the campaign trail, to buy his wife a 21st wedding anniversary gift..... Page 15

**LETTERS**

Nuclear secrets and Stalin's spies: Church dilemma on homosexuals: Oxford's admissions system: modern alchemy and ancient gold; Brussels rule..... Page 19

**OBITUARIES**

L. P. Williams, cinema art director; Terry Patchett, Labour MP; Ruth Anslow, nanny..... Page 21

**COLUMNS**

Simon Jenkins: When lies are written about them, the Royal Family should hit back with a vengeance..... Page 20

**Rachel Campbell-Johnston:** Bacon's central philosophy was that man is an accident who plays out the game of existence without reason. He dedicated himself to futility with an almost religious fervour..... Page 20

**BUSINESS**

Bank pay: Bank staff condemned the "golden handcuffs" that will make millions of 120 key J. O. Hamble Magan employees..... Page 23

**Wickes:** The DIY retailer has again delayed a letter to shareholders to explain how it overstated profits by about £50 million..... Page 23

**ECONOMY**

Economy: The pound was the star performer on foreign exchanges yesterday, surging to a 20-month high against the German mark..... Page 23

**MARKETS**

The FT-SE 100 index rose 33.4 points to close at 4028.1..... Page 26

**SPORTS**

Football: Manchester United and Liverpool, the old guard meets the new..... Page 43

**Golf:** Scotland, the defending champions, were knocked out of the Dunhill Cup after losing 2-1 to India..... Page 43

**MOTOR RACING**

Damon Hill was fifth fastest after free practice for the Japanese Grand Prix, one place behind his world championship rival Jacques Villeneuve..... Page 43

**RUGBY UNION**

As administrators wrangle over the European game's future, players start the second Heineken Cup..... Page 41

**ARTS**

Trouble in the pews: Perhaps, Richard Morrison writes, the Church should add a new festival: Bust-Up Sunday..... Page 17

**Spanish night:** The "rock flamenco sensation" Joaquin Cortes showed a clean pair of heels, and a good lot of chest..... Page 17

**Manic moment:** The Manic Street Preachers and Catatonia start a UK tour in great form..... Page 17

**CAR 96**

Off the road: Britain's unluckiest lucky man

**10 15**

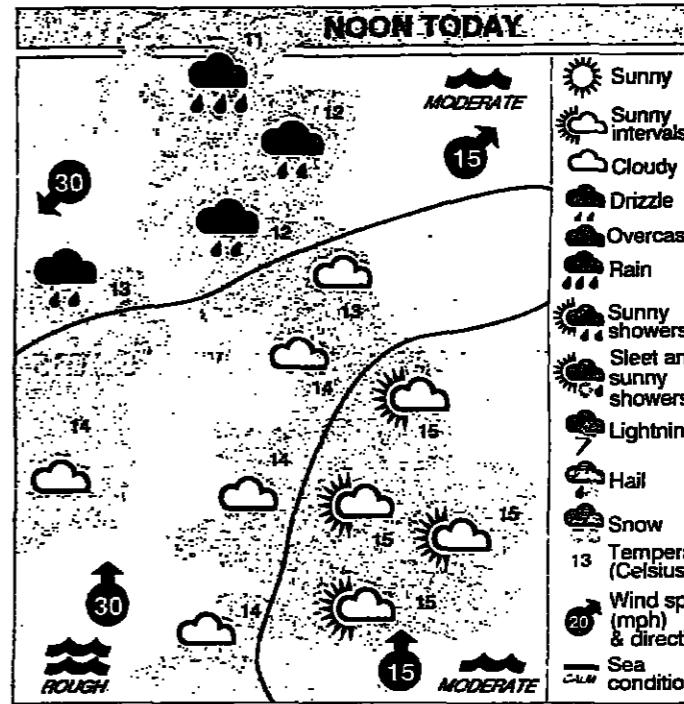
Win: VIP tickets for the Smash Hits Tour..... Page 3

Meet: Rick Adams, of Big Breakfast fame..... Page 5

**director**

Low-fat cooking: First part of a series..... Pages 3-6

Pick of the week: The best 7-day TV, satellite and radio guide..... Pages 23-30

**WEATHERCALL**

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25: Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Bedf/Chesh/... 721

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Devon & Cornwall: 724

Wilt/Gloucs/Avon/Som: 725

Beds/Herts & Essex: 726

Norfolk/Suffolk/Cambs: 728

West Mid & St Albans & Gwent: 729

Shrop/Herefs/Warks & Mon: 731

East Midlands: 732

Yorks & Humberside: 733

Dyfed & Pembs: 734

Gwynedd & Cymru: 735

NW England: 736

W & SW Yorks & Dales: 737

N E England: 738

Central & Lake District: 739

SW Scotland: 740

Edin/Glasgow/Borders: 741

E Central & Scotland: 742

Glenfinnan & Highlands: 743

NW Scotland: 744

Catnes/Orkney & Shetland: 745

N Ireland: 746

Weathercall is charged at 3p per minute (cheap rate) and 4p per minute at all other times.

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Area within M25: 721

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Beds/Herts & Essex: 726

Norfolk/Suffolk/Cambs: 728

West Mid & St Albans & Gwent: 729

Shrop/Herefs/Warks & Mon: 731

East Midlands: 732

Yorks & Humberside: 733

Dyfed & Pembs: 734

Gwynedd & Cymru: 735

NW England: 736

W & SW Yorks & Dales: 737

N E England: 738

Central & Lake District: 739

SW Scotland: 740

Edin/Glasgow/Borders: 741

E Central & Scotland: 742

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NW Scotland: 744

Catnes/Orkney & Shetland: 745

N Ireland: 746

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**WEATHER**

TODAY

Sun rises: 7.20 am Sun sets: 8.13 pm

Moon rises: 6.17 pm Moon sets: 7.01 am

New moon today: London 6.13 pm to 7.22 pm

Bristol 6.23 pm to 7.31 pm

مكتبة من الأصل

# makes your week - every week



THURSDAY

## Books - the sharpest critics and the books that matter

Reviews you can rely on from  
Peter Ackroyd, Roger Scruton,  
Ian McIntyre, Jeanette Winterson

PLUS, EVERY THURSDAY: Geoff Brown on  
films, Dr Thomas Stuttaford on  
health, John Bryant on sport



FRIDAY

## Modern music - from punk-country to Britrock

Interviews, reviews and  
David Sinclair on  
the best of the new albums

PLUS, EVERY FRIDAY: Bernard Levin,  
Caitlin Moran, Lynne Truss



EVERY DAY

## Comment, analysis and entertainment

Matthew Parris,  
columnist of the year



Peter Brookes, political cartoonist

Letters to the Editor

Philip Howard's Word Watching

Robert Sheehan on bridge

Raymond Keene on chess

The Times Crossword

The Times Diary



"I SEE NO SLEAZE, MY DEAREST HAMILTON..."

# Welcome home.



# Welcome news.

The Quality Minced Beef mark is your cue to put family favourites like Cottage Pie, Spaghetti Bolognese and Lasagne on the family menu. It means the beef is minced in Britain using regular cuts of meat from prime cattle under 30 months old and it's totally free from offal. And that's a promise.

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION, PO BOX 44, MILTON KEYNES MK6 1AX.

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